Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba's Castro Holds News Conference

FY1907221293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jul 93 p 9

[Interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by Brazilian and international reporters at the Bahia Othon Hotel in Salvador on 18 July]

[Text] [O ESTADO] You have said you are ready for negotiations and for reestablishing relations with the United States. If President Bill Clinton does not take the initiative, will Cuba do it?

[Castro] Circumstances are not the same. First, we are not embargoing the United States. If we had been doing it, we would have taken the initiative. Second, the United States is a powerful country and we are a very small country. The United States has already stated that it wants to destroy the Cuban revolution, but we do not want to destroy the United States. This fight is like the fable of the elephant against the ant. If the elephant does not want to take the initiative to normalize relations with the ant, it is very difficult for the ant to take the initiative to normalize such relations. But if the elephant does take the initiative, we will engage in a conversation.

[O ESTADO] The Peruvian president closed Congress, disregarding the Constitution. Is there any similarity with what happened in Cuba with the revolution?

[Castro] I see no point for comparison between what happened in Cuba and what happened in Peru. Cuba was fighting against a bloody tyranny. Cuba was fighting for social justice. In Peru there was no revolution. It is hard to say whether the method was the right one. I prefer legal methods, but I respect each country's right to choose its own methods for resolving its problems.

[O ESTADO] What do you think of the situation in Brazil?

[Castro] I cannot talk about Brazil. But through international publications I have learned that Brazil is experiencing a socioeconomic situation similar to that prevailing in other Latin American countries. It is going through a period of economic difficulties. In 1992 there was a drop in the development rate and huge inflation. Latin America, however, is very much interested in Brazilian growth. A Latin American union without Brazil is meaningless. Latin American needs Brazil and Brazil needs Latin America. That is why Brazil plays such an important role. I believe Brazil should have a permanent representative on the UN Security Council.

[O ESTADO] Based on your metaphor of the elephant and the ant, there was a problem between Cuba and Argentina. Is Argentina another elephant?

[Castro] Argentina is not an elephant. Here we are dealing with relations between brothers. Even if bigger, Argentina is also an ant. Actually, there are no problems with Argentina. What has happened is that interviews published by the press included strong attacks against Cuba by [Argentine President Carlos] Menem, but we have kept calm. We must be patient. There is no problem between us. When I run across Menem I greet him cordially. I did not mean to drive the Ibero-American Summit's attention to these matters. I learned that Menem wanted to be a mediator, that he was bringing a message from Clinton. But I learned it through the newspapers. What I can say about it is that we did not participate in the show.

[O ESTADO] What kind of risks does the existence of a single superpower, the United States, pose—particularly in the military field—for the world order, especially for Cuba?

[Castro] The socialist world's collapse and the disappearance of the USSR will have consequences for the world, but for us those consequences are immediate and very serious. The socialist bloc and the USSR were very important support for us. They helped us resist the embargo and buy arms to defend our country. We have now lost that support and the embargo has been intensified.

[O ESTADO] You have said you will not negotiate the socialist system. But what type of socialism is feasible in a world in which there is no more socialism and in which Cuba is practically ideologically isolated?

[Castro] When I speak about socialism I refer to the achievements of socialism. There is no socialist model. There can be various models, but we will not negotiate the objectives, goals, ideals, and dreams. Many countries that support us ask us to resist because they know that the defeat of the Cuban revolution would be a tragedy for their own survival.

[O ESTADO] Only Cuba has managed to solve problems like those of education, health, housing, yet Cuba is now in the dock.

[Castro] I do not feel in the dock. To the contrary, I am among the accusers. I wonder how long people have talked about development. For thousands of years they have talked about justice, but there is no justice; about equality, and there is no equality; about freedom, and there is no freedom. It is as if this were the first time these matters are being mentioned. We do not talk about them because more than 30 years ago we took action to produce all that. What I do not know is how to harmonize neo-liberalism with social justice, the IMF with social justice. It is neo-liberalism that is in the dock. I feel better in the group of accusers.

[O ESTADO] Do you think the declaration by the Ibero-American community will prompt a decision by the White House? Do you foresee a rapid end to the embargo?

[Castro] Actually, I do not foresee an end to the embargo in the medium term. It would amount to delusion. We must get used to the idea that the embargo will last a long time. It is true that Latin America usually has submitted

itself to the United States, and this is why we are weak and dependent, some of us more than others.

Editorial Assesses Importance of Ibero-American Summit

PY1907204693 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 6

[Editorial: "From the Summit"]

[Text] There are people who are wholly skeptical about summit meetings and who contend—even in pungent analysis—that these high-level meetings generally yield no results, they only amount to signing documents previously drafted by the respective foreign ministries, and plenary sessions are only a series of speeches delivered by heads of state who have their hands tied and are therefore unable to give an appropriate solution to the pressing problems their countries are enmeshed in.

This consideration does not seek to speak disparagingly of this type of event. On the contrary, we hold a different opinion about them because it is always important to be in contact [with other countries], to have a forum where one can voice one's concerns and, if possible, seek common grounds to reconcile interests and find the necessary cooperation for enabling across-the-board development in the countries located in the same geographical area.

The consideration expounded in the first paragraph is, however, relevant in the sense that it is important to strive for these meetings to be effective and efficient, as at this juncture of our history symbols of brotherhood and fraternity are no longer enough; the situation calls for actions that measure up to the reality confronting our peoples.

Judging from what he said yesterday—that he cherished the hope that good intentions will give way to practice—it is obvious that the Paraguayan president shares this view. He then stated: "We do hope that this successful meeting will be the starting point for finding solutions to the urgent social problems, the common denominator of which, in most of the countries of our continent, is the lack of financial resources."

In a statement that was made along the same lines as most of the other heads of state and government attending the summit meeting, the Paraguayan president specifically stressed that as the countries of the region are unable to find a satisfactory solution to the many social problems they are riddled with—unemployment, poor health care and education services, lack of financial resources for bringing about development—frustration and disenchantment supervene and, most of the times, lead to unforeseen consequences.

It is precisely this point that seems to worry the Spanish monarch himself, an enthusiastic promoter of these meetings, as he pointed out that the main problems that threaten democracy are those arising from a lack of solution to social grievances.

In light of all that was said, let us have faith that the Third Ibero-American Summit will be the charm and that it will bring about positive results for the nations that urgently need the aid of more developed countries. The presence of UN Secretary General [Butrus] Butrus-Ghali [as published], OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, Inter-American Development Bank President Enrique Iglesias, SELA [Latin American Economic System] Permanent Secretary Salvador Arriola, and other high-ranking officials from international organizations at the summit meeting hint at the fact that they intend to put into practice the saying that actions speak louder that words.

It is to be expected then, that the final declaration that will be called an Agenda for Development [as published] includes concrete proposals for economic and social problems, although it is obvious that it will be impossible to disregard issues concerning the political sphere exclusively, as is the case of interventionism, which may sometimes seem justifiable, such as in Cuba, but that as a whole has delicate and dangerous connotations.

Commentator Views Third Ibero-American Summit Results

PY2007025693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Jul 93 p 36

[Article by Hugo Saguier Guanes]

[Text] The Third Ibero-American Summit has concluded in Salvador, Bahia, with communiques about the serious social and economic situation of Latin America and within the framework of a pluralistic meeting and an open agenda in which indirect suggestions and mutual reproaches made by representatives of opposite ideologies were not missing.

Contrary to the last two summits, the Cuban dictator obtained a resounding diplomatic victory through the inclusion of a paragraph in the final declaration referring to unilateral actions that economically harm other states, openly referring to the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

As if this triumph were not enough, Castro managed to neutralize all the criticisms against his government about human rights and the authoritarian policy that has prevailed on his island for more than 30 years.

In effect, even the most radical anti-Castro president, that is, President Carlos Menem of Argentina, demonstrated more tolerance than in the past, perhaps because Argentina wants to occupy a seat on the U.N. Security Council, an organization for which Fidel Castro wants greater democracy and access to adopt decisions given that 400 million Ibero-Americans do not have a seat in this magnificent universal organization, whose veto system, according to Castro, prevents the implementation of a real international consensus.

Be what may, there has not been a concrete subject at this summit, and the agenda has been open so as to give birth to a greater regional expectation that, at moments, was centered around close Ibero-American cooperation and social development.

Many expected a more orthodox and radical attitude in this international conference, especially regarding the situation of Cuba, but the Ibero-American presidents preferred to discuss economic subjects that require immediate solutions, like the high social cost of the economic adjustment most of the neoliberal systems are implementing, placing the regional democratic system at stake, although no common resolution or other form of multilateral action was issued to correct this urgent source of social tension.

There have been many expressions of good intentions and philosophical principles described with great pomposity in Salvador, but no kind of common commitment to attack the scourge of hunger, illness, and poverty that affects more than 200 million souls in Latin America.

As a savvy international policy expert said, this conference has only served to set the date and place for the next summit. In other words, there were many things in common and little differences from the last summit, held in Madrid.

With great flourish there have been many bilateral encounters like the ones between Felipe Gonzalez and Fidel Castro in order to find an ideal formula to allow Cuba to begin an opening of the economy and freedom.

The summit's final resolutions demonstrate a certain hope to form a common Ibero-American front some time in the international organizations and a common consensus in the case of the unfortunate Uruguay Round of GATT, which has been undefined for seven years, with terrible damage to the regional economy's performance as a result of the large subsidies paid by the highly industrialized countries on their farming products.

There will be many notable absences at the next summit in Cartagena but other presidents will occupy their posts in a presidential succession that creates many expectations, especially in the case of Fidel Castro, who now more than ever is in an extremely uncomfortable situation.

A new chapter is beginning in Ibero-American history, where everything is subject to new geopolitical adjustments in relation to the rich countries of the North.

Colombian President Says 'Neoliberal Economic System' Exhausted

PY1907193093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1712 GMT 16 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador de Bahia (Brazil), 16 Jul (EFE)—Colombian President Cesar Gaviria today stressed that the neoliberal economic system is exhausted. He said that Ibero-American countries are being forced to find new formulas to improve democracy and the state.

He added that although most nations participating in the Ibero-American forum have found a path for economic growth and fiscal discipline, the market economy has lagged behind despite its effectiveness in economic matters. This lag cannot be denied because market economy has not resolved the needs of the have-nots.

In his speech on the second and final day of the summit, the Colombian president said: "Economic jargon has changed toward discussing the size of the state, the market, the advantages of a market economy, and an economic opening, but this jargon is becoming exhausted. This no longer applies in politics. People no longer believe in it."

Gaviria said: "This summit is the best evidence of what is missing in politics because that (neoliberal) jargon is no longer applicable in politics. It is no longer possible to conduct campaigns that discuss a market economy."

The issue of the exhaustion of the neoliberal economic system—the source of all economic adjustments introduced during the past few years in most Ibero-American economies—was introduced by Gaviria during the working session called: "Education, Culture, Health, Science, and Technology as Development Means."

The Colombian president asked his counterparts to establish the bases for a new system of economic policy in Latin America to emphasize the social aspect, pointing out: "A market economy largely resolves the problems of the productive private sector but does not resolve the problem of the basic needs of many people."

Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez spoke after Gaviria. He raised the need to establish a mechanism to gauge the progress achieved in the social area, a proposal that was supported by his Mexican counterpart, Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The Mexican president mentioned the Latin American Economic System (SELA), headquartered in Caracas, and the UN Committee for Latin America as the ideal organization to gauge the issue.

During the second working session of the Third Ibero-American Summit, which was suspended to allow the presidents to visit the historical district of Pelourinho, declared the property of humanity by UNESCO, Salinas de Gortari indicated: "The solution to poverty lies in solidarity, in using good to overcome evil."

Argentine President Carlos Menem did not waste the opportunity, raised by Gaviria's discussion, to mention Cuba. He stressed that the organization of a state is based on the promotion of democracy, liberty, and human rights, and that other tasks come under private enterprise.

Menem emphasized: "Without democracy, liberty, and respect for human rights, states become prison guards as happened in East Europe."

Gonzalez said that the state must not become a mere entrepreneur and "must not become involved in activities which private enterprise can cover very efficiently." He added that Spain "has managed to involve the entire society in some areas" like health assistance.

Gonzalez said: "There is no sense in the state manufacturing jeans," but the state should "protect, support, and help education and health systems."

EC Grants New Meat Export Quotas to Uruguay

PY1907221793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2159 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by Alberto Pepe Leira]

[Text] Salvador (Brazil), 15 Jul (EFE)—EC Vice President Manuel Marin on 15 July conveyed encouraging news to Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle on an increase for Uruguay for export quotas on special beef cuts.

Marin, who is responsible for EC international cooperation and who held a private meeting for more than an hour with Lacalle in a Salvador hotel in northeastern Brazil, said agreements have been achieved within the EC to import "Hilton Beef" [preceding two words in English] cuts from Uruguay.

President Lacalle and the EC commissioner also agreed in stressing that bilateral relations are developing with great success.

Lacalle said that during the meeting he insisted on the need to successfully conclude the GATT and Uruguay Round issues to liberalize trade.

To achieve that, we need the political will to eliminate agricultural subsidies by inefficient countries, he said.

Marin told EFE that the meeting with Lacalle allowed him to confirm that "cooperation with Uruguay is going very well."

"We have been able to verify that possibly there will be very good news very soon concerning the concessions by the EC on a matter very important to Uruguay, such as exports of special beef cuts, in line with the latest Geneva agreements," he said.

He added that he had talked with Lacalle on the agenda for a forthcoming visit by EC President Jacques Delors to Uruguay, scheduled for January 1994.

Lacalle said: "Bilateral relations with the EC are extremely good." He explained that Uruguay has been recognized by the EC as "the basis for the coordination of Mercosur [Common Market of the South]"

Lacalle stressed to EFE the importance for his country and the integration process, which it comprises with Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay, the "transfer of the EC experience within a cooperation program for the development of Mercosur institutions."

He added that the transfer "must be as accommodating as possible to each of the historical moments, the historical times, and the geographic variations."

Lacalle added that in the commercial aspect he wanted the Uruguay GATT Round to leave behind mere generalization and reach an understanding with the industrialized countries so as "to fulfill their true role, incorporating the issues of agriculture and services, which have been severed for the time being."

The Uruguayan president told EFE that, with Foreign Minister Sergio Abreu, he will hold a number of negotiations with the EC on 26 July to try unlocking GATT.

Marin agreed with Lacalle that the common agricultural policy "has aspects difficult to understand."

He added that it is an issue that "is experiencing full transformation and that the EC can begin cooperating, reducing its defensive trade tariffs by approximately 30 percent."

For Latin American observers, this percentage seems to be very little, but we must take into account that a tariff reduction must be achieved gradually "because in the old Europe, with old acquired rights, it is very difficult to do it overnight," Marin explained.

Latin American Parliament Session Gets Under Way

PY1707155393

[Editorial Report] Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese at 1520 GMT on 17 July begins broadcasting a live relay from the headquarters of the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Several Latin American presidents, including Brazil's Itamar Franco, Argentina's Carlos Menem, Paraguay's Andres Rodriguez, Nicaragua's Violeta Chamorro, Cuba's Fidel Castro, and Chile's Patricio Aylwin, are shown arriving at the session. OAS Secretary General Baena Soares is also shown arriving. Castro is seen briefly, walking slowly.

At 1523 GMT the relay shows Brazilian President Franco greeting Parlatino congressmen. Other leaders, including Castro, Sao Paulo Governor Fleury Filho, and President Franco, are also shown greeting the congressmen.

The announcer says the ceremony to dedicate the Ulysses Guimaraes Hall is under way. Castro is shown applauding and walking in the hall, and Franco is shown unveiling a commemorative plaque in the hall.

While the Parlatino anthem is played, the camera pans the audience and shows the presidents, all of whom are standing. At 1542 GMT, Parliament President Humberto Celli begins to speak. During his speech, he welcomes the Latin American leaders to the Parliament and says Latin American nations continue to make the mistake of applying foreign social and economic models to Latin American nations. In conclusion, Celli mentions two Parliament proposals: A request to the UN Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries to investigate the legitimacy of foreign debt contracts and their manipulation by creditor banks, and a plan to fight drug trafficking. Celli then declares the Parliament officially open.

At 1553 GMT, Brazilian President Itamar Franco begins speaking. After noting he will dedicate the new Parlatino headquarters, Franco comments on the economic situation within the region. He says regional democracy is dependent on resolving social problems caused by "disorderly economic growth." Franco's speech concludes at 1559 GMT.

Franco is seen signing a book, followed by the other heads of state. Each of them receives a commemorative medal, and applause is heard after the presentation of each medal. Meanwhile, the announcer outlines the agenda for the 14th Parlatino. The ceremony concludes at 1617 GMT.

Parlatino President Opens Session

PY1707215793 Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese 1542 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Speech by Venezuelan Deputy Humberto Celli, president of the Latin American Parliament, Parlatino, at the opening ceremony of the 14th session of the Parlatino and the ceremony dedicating its pemanent headquarters in Sao Paulo—live]

[Text] Messrs. Presidents of the countries present here; Mr. Governor of Sao Paulo; Mr. Mayor of Sao Paulo; Messrs. Ministers of Foreign Relations; Messrs. members of the diplomatic corps; Messrs. members of international organizations; ladies and gentlemen; parliament colleagues:

The solemn inauguration of these permanent headquarters with the presence of your excellencies, Messrs. Latin American and Portuguese heads of state and government, the Latin American and Portuguese foreign ministers, the presidents of legislative chambers, and heads of regional and subregional organizations represents an honor.

For all of you, a warmhearted welcome. We are sure that your presence here will be translated into a strengthening of many goals endorsed by the Latin American Parliament in its effort to achieve a more democratic and integrated America, in which its citizens may lead a more honorable and human life.

Insecurity in the search for our own solutions, interpreting our reality and considering our potentials, values, beliefs, and the roots of our mixed-blood America still leads us to indulge in the mistake of exactly duplicating proposals that are not in keeping with our own culture and habits.

Following the crisis of Keynesian principles the neoliberal proposal was to reduce the duties of the states in developed nations which had built social security, education, and health systems which provide a shelter for the population. These proposals are meaningless in our nations, which are engrossed in a fast process of modernization that requires heavy investments in social structures and policies capable of encouraging people's concerted participation and productive toil.

Streamlining the state, determining priorities, innovating and creating methods that will allow us, within specific national and regional characteristics, to achieve a true competitiveness that will enhance productivity and the interaction of public and private sectors, and encouraging the transformation of the productive system and regional economic integration, represent political guidelines that are required to equitably transform the productive system.

We must demand as a priority of the political struggle the settlement of the social debt, which requires two types of policies—macroeconomic and those that are direct or welfare-biased—in order to prevent poverty

from increasing and equitably restore the middle-class working sectors' income share.

Accelerating the integration process, in order to overcome underdevelopment and poverty, represents another priority in the regional political struggle.

The Latin American Community of Nations, proposed by the Latin American Parliament during the Rio Group conference in 1992, represents an approach to concrete proposals which, according to agreement No. 21 of the Europe-Latin America Inter-Parliamentary Conference of May 1993, is intended to promote the idea of European and Latin American citizenship.

The creation of a national and regional development model that will meet Latin American and Caribbean requirements and realities requires the removal of totalitarian traditions and dangers which time and again surface in the region.

Brazil's Franco Speaks

PY1707214093 Rio de Janeiro TVE Television in Portuguese 1553 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Speech by Brazilian President Itamar Franco at the opening of the 14th session of the Latin American Parliament, Parlatino, and the ceremony dedicating the permanent Parlatino headquarters in Sao Paulo—live]

[Text] Mr. President of the Latin American Parliament; Messrs. chiefs of state and of government; Mr. Governor of State; Messrs. members of the Latin American Parliament; Messrs. Foreign Ministers; Messrs. members of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen; relatives of Ulysses Guimaraes; young men and women.

Today we are dedicating the Parlatino headquarters under the inspiration of the highest ideals guiding the political and social lives in our countries.

The fulfillment of the destiny delegated to us by the founders of the continental states presupposes absolute respect for the two values which serve as bases for our civilization: liberty and order.

The peoples establish their legal order and demand that their common will be done within a climate of full liberty within their congresses, through their representatives elected through legal electoral processes. It is up to the other state institutions to guarantee liberty and to maintain this order, not allowing the dissolution of authority through anarchy, nor resorting to measures that might violate the constitutions and laws.

We call this difficult form of living and governing democracy. We do not always realize its virtues, but when we are deprived of them we long for their restoration.

We want to remind everyone that tiresome dialogue is preferable to the use of force; that patience is better than the hastiness that can lead to the adoption of unpremeditated measures; and that the use of legitimate and constitutional means to guarantee the institutions and the fullfillment of the legal order, even at the cost of extreme political unpopularity, is often inevitable to prevent the threats and disorder characteristic of dictatorships.

When we think of democracy we think of parliament. It is in a parliament that ideas develop, in the heat of debates and with the force of political passions. It is also in the parliament that agreements are reached, in the most difficult of times, for the sake of peace.

In our country the figure of Ulysses Guimaraes has stood, during difficult times of struggle, for the recovery of democracy and the reaffirmation of the parliament. For this reason we have just paid just homage to his memory. Ulysses Guimaraes, in more than four decades of public life, was an example of passion and of patience, of confrontation and of dialogue, of courage and flexibility. [applause]

Brazil feels honored for having had the city of Sao Paulo chosen as the headquarters for this house of the Latin American democracy, which will be a privileged forum of dialogue and of understanding. I am certain that in it we will find space to build the unity dreamed of by our forefathers and denied by the circumstances of that time. This unity will be always be ruled by sacred respect for the principles of people's self-determination.

In this ideal of integration we should not be moved only by economic reasons, regardless of how important they may be. I am convinced that more than the exchange of goods and services, we have to exchange our rich human experience. Our integration must be cultural, or it will not be integration.

From one or the other side of the mountains and rivers which mark the limits of our sovereignty, there are men and women who embellish and give more dignity to life through their literary creation, the plastic arts, music, and the powerful and often fantastic popular art. It was with that idea in mind, and with that spirit expressed in Salvador, that I submitted to the national Congress a draft law establishing the teaching of the Spanish language in all elementary and intermediate schools throughout Brazil.

To serve the common future we also have the lessons of the social brotherhood of our native ancestors on the continent. In their societies, apparently primitive because they were deprived of technical knowledge, we find inspiration for the necessary social justice.

Unless we are capable of resolving the terrible social problems caused by disorderly economic growth, democracy will be incomplete. Thus we must not delude ourselves with a modernity which, for the sake of the inevitable opening of the markets, exploits cheap manpower in the name of economic progress.

Ladies and gentlemen, Messrs. chiefs of state and of government: The political construction of Latin America is perhaps one of the most inciting adventures of man. It was necessary to trespass all frontiers of mystery, cutting across the Western Hemisphere's meridians and the equator in a confrontation with a hostile world and its preserved nature, and with powerful people who have their own knowledge, to establish here the new platform of history.

This parliament will serve so that we know each other better. It is part of an architectural structure of its own, rich in cultural traditions and initiatives of the people and government of Sao Paulo, intended to receive the creative spirit of our America. I have no doubt that here, within the solitude of these walls, will begin the objective construction of our integration. Thank you very much. [applause]

Accurately describing in the 1966 Encyclopedia Britannica the long-standing totalitarian and autocratic tradition which is a characteristic of the difficult history of Latin America and the Caribbean, Romulo Betancourt [former Venezuelan president] remarks that the Armed Forces' inclination to stage rebellions—a tendency inherited from colonialist Spain—and attain power at gunpoint, under the cover of darkness, is seen by them as being quicker and less complicated than taking off the military uniform, going into retirement, and competing as just another candidate for the votes of the constituency.

This propensity that the military has inherited from colonial power is spurred by civilian politicians whose electoral efforts to attain at least a little bit of power have been thwarted, or by powerful national and foreign economic groups that find the friendship of a dictator or an apprentice dictator convenient for making a quick profit. Ambitious military men and civilians thereby join together in their seditious drives to attain power, not through the main gate of free suffrage but by climbing through the back window.

The end result of successful coups d'etat is always the same: the installation of a military junta or self-appointed chief of state to rule arbitrarily, denying rights and taking advantage of the lack of legal checks and balances, as well as denying freely expressed public opinion, in order to manipulate the national treasury for personal gain.

This totalitarian and power-grasping tendency now has another expression which is equally dangerous to democratic states which have a better-organized distribution of political, economic, and social power. I am talking about the self-inflicted coups d'etat implemented, successfully or not, by national leaders who rise to the presidency of their nations and want to resolve the complex problems of their peoples by eliminating the distribution of power, which is a characteristic of any modern state, and concentrating it in their hands. [applause]

In this way, they are going against the trends, feelings, and experiences of the world that is emerging at the end of the 20th century, a world that seeks to improve on Montesquieu's model, inherited from the French Revolution, by adding to the three standard branches of state—the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary—other branches that would give society's institutions, organizations, and groups a chance to share the power.

The Parlatino has launched two initiatives which we believe should be encouraged, given their significance for and impact on the economies and social and cultural development of our countries.

I am talking about our request to the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, Grulac, to query the International Court in The Hague about the legal, moral, and ethical status of Latin America's foreign debt contracts, and the unilateral manner in which the creditor banks have manipulated the interests and other terms of this debt without taking the debtor countries into account. [applause]

The other initiative has to do with drug control and enforcement, for which we have proposed standard laws for all Latin American and Caribbean countries so that states and societies can carry out a effective struggle against this scourge.

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, here are the three challenges that call for our joint, intelligent action: create development models based on our own values and cultures; redesign our states so that they can better respond to the expectations of greater effectiveness and democratic participation of large portions of our society; and create the Latin American community of nations.

May the Parlatino be the forum for respectful and solidaristic gatherings held to share, create, and coordinate actions capable of bringing us close to these common and much needed and desired goals.

Thank you for being with us, and I wish each one of you the best and happiest trip back home. I thus formally dedicate the headquarters of the Latin American Parliament. Thank you. [applause]

Cuba's Castro Attends

PY1907203993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1927 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, 19 Jul (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro has categorically rejected the introduction of political pluralism in his country in an interview granted in Salvador and published by local dailies today.

"In Cuba there are no other parties and there cannot be any. We are not willing to do that. I believe the monolithic unity of the people is our most important weapon in order to resist," said Castro, who returned to Havana from Salvador, Bahia, last night.

Asked about the possibility of reforming the Cuban single-party political system with the authorization of the operation of other parties, Castro said: "Our strength lies in monolithic unity; dividing the people into 10 or more parties would represent a sure defeat."

Castro who, with 21 chiefs of state and government, attended the Third Ibero-American Summit held on 15 and 16 July in Salvador, Bahia, arrived in this city on 14 July. He only left this city for a few hours when he went to Sao Paulo on 17 July.

In Sao Paulo on 17 July, Castro and 13 other presidents attended the inauguration of the permanent headquarters of the Latin American Parliament, which is a regional organization made up of 22 national assemblies, including Cuba.

About the harsh relations with the United States for the last three decades and a possible dialogue, Castro said this is "a struggle between an elephant and an ant. If the elephant does not take the initiative, it will be difficult for the ant to do it."

In his last conversation with reporters during his stay in Brazil, Castro compared Cuba's solitude in the international scene with Christ and with the legend of Robinson Crusoe. He insisted that Cuba is the safest place for investors to invest their capital.

He said: "No one was ever more isolated than Christ on the cross and there are now millions of Christians around the world." He added: "Robinson Crusoe also was alone and survived, and no one bothered him."

According to Castro, "Cuba is now the safest country in the world for foreign capital. A socialist revolution can occur in other countries but in Cuba only a capitalist revolution can occur and the capital then would be respected."

According to Castro, a defeat of the socialist system "would transform Cuba into Miami."

Regarding his relations with Argentine President Carlos Menem, who reaffirmed that the situation in Cuba is "unsustainable," Castro said with irony: "This is a struggle of an ant against an ant, although Argentina is a bigger ant."

Fidel Castro expressed support for the Brazilian desire to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council. He indicated, however, that the power of this organization made up of 15 countries—five permanent—should be transferred to the UN General Assembly.

Castro said the neoliberal economic system "is in court dock as the accused" and added: "We see in Europe 20 million unemployed, xenophobia, and the persecution of immigrants. The unipolar world under the United States' leadership is one of the great tragedies of history."

Castro added: "When I listened to the presidents' speeches during the summit, I thought I was hearing the Bolshevik leaders. They only spoke of social development. Cuba has been doing that for 30 years."

Leftists Welcome Castro, Decry Menem

PY1707212493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1828 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 17 Jul (EFE)—Some 200 leftwing activists praised Cuban leader Fidel Castro and insulted Argentine President Carlos Menem when both heads of state arrived today in Sao Paulo to participate in the dedication of the seat of the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino].

The demonstrators, who were surrounded by a large cordon of civilian and military police, received Castro with shouts of "Friend Fidel, Brazil is with you" and "Fidel, stand fast, give Menem hell."

Castro stopped on two occasions to greet his local followers, who are members of the Communist Party of Brazil, student associations, and the Metro Workers Union of Sao Paulo, which is the country's main industrial center.

The leftwing activists broke out in hostile shouts against Menem while the Argentine president was entering the Parlatino building, a modern cylindrical edifice designed by Brazilian Architect Oscar Niemeyer.

The crowd accused Menem of being a "fascist" and "an imperialist puppet."

In the midst of the shouting the Cuban and Argentine presidents shook hands for the first time, after having avoided each other during the three days during which they shared breathing room at the site of the Third Ibero-American Summit, which concluded on 16 July in the Brazilian city of Salvador.

Carlos Menem, who offered unsuccessfully to mediate between the United States and Cuba, stood out among the Latin American presidents for his remarks regarding Fidel Castro's "dramatic dictatorship."

Peruvian Foreign Minister Walks Out

PA1807041593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The inauguration of the headquarters of the Latin American Parliament [Parlatino] in Sao Paulo, Brazil, attended by most of the presidents who attended the Salvador Summit, was presided over by Brazilian President Itamar Franco. The inauguration was followed by the official opening of the Parlatino session. President Itamar Franco and Venezuelan Deputy Humberto Celli, president of the Parlatino, were the key speakers. During his speech, Celli strongly criticized self-inflicted coups. [passage omitted on previously filed material]

Because of the harsh criticism by the Venezuelan parliamentarian, Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar De la Puente Raygada walked out of the meeting and refused to accept a medal commemorating the event.

Paraguayan Senator Comments on Castro Summit Speech

PY1707185893 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by "special correspondent" from Salvador, Brazil]

[Text] Senator Jose Felix Fernandez Estigarribia [Authentic Radical Liberal Party—UCR], president of the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, who participated in the Third Ibero-American "Summit" at the invitation of the Paraguayan Government, has maintained that through his evaluation of the Cuban leader's address, he believes that Fidel Castro "is giving ground" with regard to his position. "I believe that President Castro's address was conciliatory, when compared with his other speeches. It is only toward the end that he reaffirms his country's position. It is my belief that President Castro's address was not harsh. On the contrary, it is an address that leaves a door open."

"I believe that everyone, Paraguay included, must cooperate in seeking an untroubled outlet for Cuba. The most untroubled outlet possible," Fernandez Estigarribia said. The UCR senator will participate in the Parlatino [Latin American Parliament] meeting today in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

He also indicated that Cuba "must make progress in the matters of public freedom and human rights. Cuba must make concrete steps in this respect in order to come into line with our concept of representative democracy, but we cannot but acknowledge Cuba's difficulties as a consequence of a blockade that has lasted too long."

Argentine Measure Causes Mercosur 'Negotiation Crisis'

PY1507160093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1853 GMT 14 Jul 93

[Text] Salvador, Brazil, 14 Jul (EFE)—An Argentine measure to prevent massive paper imports from Brazil has unleashed a negotiation crisis within the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), a Uruguayan diplomat said here today.

According to Uruguayan and Paraguayan diplomats, the trade "war" unleashed between the paper industries of the two main Mercosur partners, Brazil and Argentina, has postponed important talks about import duties that must be defined among the partners.

"We cannot continue with short-term measures to protect specific sectors if we are really interested in integration through Mercosur," said an Uruguayan diplomat attending the Third Ibero- American Summit.

The presidents of Argentina, Carlos Menem; Brazil, Itamar Franco; Paraguay, Andres Rodriguez; and Uruguay, Luis Alberto Lacalle, will arrive today in Salvador with the intention of using this summit opportunity to ratify their political will to promote Mercosur.

The measures to protect national industries, like in the case of Argentina, which wants to protect its paper industry—to Brazil's detriment, constitute an attack against integration plans, according to Mercosur experts.

Problems like that in the paper industry add obstacles to Mercosur's development, which must begin operating on 1 January 1995, as established in the Asuncion Treaty of 26 March 1991.

"This is an unforeseen problem," said the diplomat, who added that the car industry is the main obstacle to establishing low import duties.

Brazil currently is arguing with its Mercosur partners over duties on imports from countries outside Mercosur.

While the Brazilians want high import duties, countries like Uruguay and Paraguay, which import cars, want low duties "in order not to be victims of the inefficiency" of Brazil.

Argentina, which like Brazil also wants import duties to protect its own car industry, is on a middle plane.

As the Mercosur operational date comes near, the problems have not been solved and the situation is becoming worse with the appearance of other problems that were thought to be solved.

Cuba

Castro Returns From Ibero-American Summit

FL1907115793 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and of Ministers, has returned to the fatherland after a fruitful visit to Brazil, where he participated in the Third Ibero-American Summit for heads of state or government.

Commentary Assesses Results of Ibero-American Summit

FL1907162293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 19 Jul 93

["Our Opinion" commentary by Eduardo Dimas]

[Text] Good day. I would like you to today allow me to assess, even if only briefly, the results of the Third Ibero-American Summit. The very fact that the leaders of Latin America, Spain, and Portugal have met for a third consecutive time is already, in itself, a positive sign in these unipolar times. Latin America's rulers had not gathered since the [word indistinct] congress of 1826 called by Bolivar. It should also be recalled that Panamanian Chief of State General Omar Torrijos tried to hold such a meeting in 1975; instead, an OAS general assembly by the United States was held: a substantial difference.

Another aspect that should be highlighted is that the organizers of the event refused the U.S. request to be allowed to participate as an observer, which leads one to think there is a desire to maintain, to the extent possible, a certain independence from our northern neighbor. Nevertheless, we cannot forget the enormous economic and political influence the United States wields over the Latin American nations, nor that relations with the United States are necessary: for many, indispensable. For that reason, we should take that step at its exact value, and no further.

On the other hand, the U.S. blockade of Cuba is implicitly condemned in the final declaration. But of course, the protagonists are not mentioned by name. Rather, reference is made to recent resolutions at international forums on the need to eliminate the unilateral application by any nation of measures of an economic and commercial nature against another nation for political purposes.

The subject of the democratization of the United Nations—especially of its Security Council—came up at the summit, in the words of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and other leaders. The matter is turning into a universal clamor, which could contribute to its being taken into account in the immediate future. This is as it should be.

The summit's central theme, however, was the drawing up of a development agenda with emphasis on social matters, and the summit's conclusions and recommendations revolved around that idea. Since the summit was focused on development, neoliberalism had inevitably to end up as a defendant; and many leaders who have applied the neoliberal model had to acknowledge the negative effects of such policies and their consequences as regards increases in social inequalities. The summit acknowledged that poverty is one of Latin America's great ills. It constitutes the governments' social debt toward their peoples. What I am wondering is how, in these times of neoliberalism—in which the immense majority of Latin American rulers are involved—programs to eliminate that scourge, which affects 45 percent of the population, or 200 million persons, are going to be orchestrated. That is something practically impossible to resolve in a short time, and many forces would oppose it—because it is, precisely, unjust distribution of wealth that is the reason for such a state of affairs.

In any case, the fact that the need to improve the masses' material living conditions is being acknowledged is already a step forward, although let us not forget that in Madrid, the chiefs of state and government pointed out the dangers for the stability of the subcontinent's weak democracies that lay in their populations' extreme poverty.

Last, the spirit of Guadalajara was taken up again in Salvador da Bahia: a spirit of integration and unity. This does not of course mean that integration will progress along a well-trodden path. It will be a difficult process, and one not exempt of steps backward. The forces opposing integration are powerful, and they are not going to stop creating obstacles. The agreements on scientific and technical research, as well as on education and culture, will play an important role. But, the fundamental thing is the desire to integrate.

I think the balance of this summit is a positive one. In any case, I suggest you wait to see what happens in Cartagena de India, Colombia, next year.

Resumption of Sugar Exports Announced

PA1907221893 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2117 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Havana, 19 Jul (EFE)—Cuba on 19 July announced it was resuming its sugar exports, which had been temporarily halted on 3 June for reasons of "an act of God." Official sources indicated the loading terminals in Cienfuegos, Holguin, and Las Tunas were already in operation although only working at 25

capacity.

The decision to temporarily halt sugar exports came after heavy rains during the second half of May caused serious damage to the crops and to railroad lines, ports, loading terminals and brought the harvest season to a standstill.

Cubazucar state enterprise spokesmen explained at that time that the deliveries promised for June and July would have to be delayed "for reasons beyond our control," although they insisted that it did not mean a cancellation of contracts.

The resumption of exports will give priority to Russia, a country with which a contract was signed last November to exchange 3.5 tons of oil for 1.5 million tons of sugar, something that is considered vital for the Cuban economy.

At any rate, this year's harvest, estimated at a little over 4.2 million tons, is below the 7 million tons produced in 1992 and will be one of the poorest ever recorded. In a recent speech, President Fidel Castro said Cuba's earnings from sugar exports would fall approximately $500 million in 1993 and he attributed the harvest's bad yield to weather factors, lack of fuel and adequate equipment, and also organizational flaws.

Population Reacts Violently to Transportation Problems

FL1907195493

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1155 GMT on 19 July carries an interview by one of its mobile units with Ignacio Becerra, brigade leader of the mechanics workshop of the urban bus transportation terminal in the Alamar Section of Havana, and of workshop chief Lazaro (Benedilla).

Becerra says the population must understand that transportation sector workers are aware of the population's transportation needs and problems, but are currently operating under great limitations and are unable to provide the service the population needs. He urges the population to understand that workers are doing the very best they can. They simply do not have the resources with which to provide the service they would like.

Asked about a pile of broken glass on the premises, and about how it got there, (Benedilla) explains that he too feels the population must be more understanding. He notes that when people are unable to get on the bus, they have taken to breaking the windows and/or windshields of the buses, which today are difficult to replace.

In answer to a question from the interviewer, he explains that things get broken when people fight to board the buses, adding: "And there are some who break them intentionally with rocks. They throw rocks at them, as was the case on that Sunday... [corrects himself] I mean that Saturday, when some people [paramaniganos] attacked No. 2843 with rocks, and broke its windshield."

Intergovernmental Commission With Guyana Opens Talks

FL2007022893 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Today, in Havana, the 17th session of the Cuba-Guyana joint intergovernmental commission began in Havana for the purpose of extending bilateral trade between the two countries. The Guyanese delegation is headed by Mr. (Michael Chi), minister of trade, industry, and tourism. The Cuban side is headed by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation. The meeting's agenda includes various topics with priority in the areas of health care, construction, and tourism.

[Begin (Chi) recording in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish] Our delegation includes two representatives from the private sector, and we hope that they can explore the possibilities of doing business with Cuban companies and agencies. [end recording]

The two sides will also examine maritime transportation for the purpose of facilitating the trade that they hope to extend. Ernesto Melendez pointed out that this is the will of the Guyanese Government, as well as of the private sector of that country. They hope to sign a cooperation agreement by the conclusion of the meetings on 21 July.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

CDB Approves Loans for Jamaica, Guyana, St. Vincent

FL2007022493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1928 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, July 19, CANA—The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has approved four loans totalling U.S.28.6 million dollars to finance capital projects in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, and Guyana.

The largest loan, approved by the CDB board of directors at a July 15 meeting here, is for U.S.11 million dollars to assist the Guyana Government in financing the rehabilitation of the 71.2-kilometre Linden Highway, the main link between the capital, Georgetown, and the bauxite-mining town of Linden.

The loan to Jamaica, amounting to U.S.8.6 million dollars, is to finance expansion of electricity services in the countryside with a view to improving the quality of life for residents, and stimulating economic activity.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is receiving two loans. One, of 5 million dollars, is to assist high-priority projects involving port, airport, and road works in the Grenadine islands of Bequia, Canouan, and Union, to support the growth of tourism. The second loan, of 4 million dollars, is for the improvement of the central Leeward Highway in St. Vincent.

Haiti

Political Representatives Reach Agreement in New York

FL1907141093 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] In New York, during the evening of 16 July, representatives of Haiti's main political parties reached an agreement on a political truce which will last approximately six months. It is aimed at guaranteeing the transitional period. According to UN spokesperson (Matthew Nerzig), there will then be a stable and peaceful period for the establishment of democracy in Haiti. In compliance with this document, they [not further identified] will decide on a series of truces to be made during this period. In the meantime, the parliamentarians commit themselves to stopping.... [pauses] not to [word indistinct] during the transitional period. They will not adopt any censure motion against the new government. As well, the 18 January parliamentarians will refrain from sitting in parliament for the regular sessions.

The signatories of the 16 July agreement invite the president of the Republic to designate his new prime minister as soon as possible. This prime minister will ensure the government of national accord in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution. They will commit themselves to ratifying, as soon as possible, the choice of this prime minister in accordance with the Constitution. Various names have already been mentioned. Robert Malval, who is a businessman very close to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, is among those most quoted by diplomats who are closely following the Haitian crisis.

The ratification of the prime minister designated by Father Jean- Bertrand Aristide should be followed by the suspension of the embargo on petroleum products and weapons, which was imposed by the UN Security Council on 23 June. These sanctions will definitively be lifted once President Aristide is restored to his post.

Furthermore, the political parties commit themselves to having those who were arrested for voicing their opinions released immediately. They will commit themselves to having procedures [word indistinct] on the status of prisoners throughout the national territory reformed. The document also provides for the establishment of an office for the protection of citizens. The creation of this office will be facilitated by the political parties. Meanwhile, a commission will be formed for restitution to the victims of the coup.

Finally, the text says that the political parties will commit themselves to creating a series of laws focussing on the creation, the organization, and the functioning of a police force to be voted on as a matter of urgency. There will be an amnesty for the putschist military and they [not further identified] will also work for the abolition of any paramilitary forces in the country. Within the scope of its powers, the executive power will be able to initiate a series of procedures for the revision of various decrees and decisions that were adopted under the de facto regimes in Haiti. There are decrees which allegedly do not comply with the provisions of the Constitution.

Several Legislators Refuse To Sign Agreement

FL1907154193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1430 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Four legislators from the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, did not sign the New York Accord. Senators Firmin Jean-Louis and Turneb Delpe; and Deputies Alexandre Medard and Pierre Canel Rindal expressed their disagreement with the document by refusing to sign it. This confirms the signs of a rift within the FNCD. Political leader Rene Theodore and Sen. Rony Mondestin, from the Movement of National Reconstruction, also refused to sign the document.

Bissainthe, Gilles, Dupiton React to Accord

FL1907224493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Not too many local reactions from the political parties have been expressed regarding the New York accord.

National Television held a televised debate, however, on 18 July. The guests were Serge Gilles, Thomas Eddy Dupiton, and Gerard Bissainthe. Professor Bissainthe advocates the withdrawal of Haiti from the UN and the OAS as an expression of its disapproval of foreign interference in Haitian matters.

Commenting on the New York accord, the document signed by the legislators, Gerard Bissainthe says that this pact is invalid because it was approved by only a part of the political sector and not signed by any of the country's legal institutions. [passage omitted]

Senator Serge Gilles defended the parties who agreed to sign the New York document during the debate. Serge Gilles rejects arguments that the international community pressured them to sign the document, pointing out that he himself signed it voluntarily. [passage omitted]

According to his statements during the National Television debate on 18 July, Sen. Dupiton, by signing the accord, committed himself to facilitating its application and to allowing the formation of a new office within the Senate.

Political Groups' Reaction

FL1907220193 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Union of Democratic Patriots [UPD] leader Rockfeller Guerre says the New York pact might be

considered the first step toward releasing UN resolution 841, which imposes a petroleum embargo on the country. The UPD regrets, however, that it was in New York that they were obliged to adopt such an agreement. The Haitian leaders, he says, are people with childlike mentalities, who only see their personal interests. All the parliamentarians could join together to reach such a solution, says Guerre. [passage omitted]

The Militant Revolutionary Forces [FMR] has accepted the signing of the New York Pact, but expresses two main reservations. Again, Francis Jean does not understand the validity of the [words indistinct] to the 18 January parliamentarians, just as the international community does not acknowledge those mock elections.

[Jean] "The FMR has two reservations: The first concerns formation of the delegation that gathered opportunists, the 18 January and 16 December [1990] coupists and the Army henchmen, while true democratic activists speaking in the interest of the people were forgotten. The second reservation includes the way the meeting was held, within a closed world, and the fact that five leaders did not sign this paper—they must tell us for the sake of history, and the people must ask why, they did not sign. This agreement is a small step, it is true, but the FMR wants an agreement with constitutional legality. This is not what we got." [passage omitted]

The Christian Democratic Assembly [RDC] denounces the international community's game of nourishing a hidden agenda. The best thing would be to hold the latest intersectorial meeting in Haiti. Eddy Volel of the RDC is opposed to the choice of a prime minister of national concord controlled from a distance. He provided explanations before the microphones of Signal FM.

[Volel] "Since Dante Caputo wanted his business to be settled, to have agreements signed so he can appoint the prime minister he wants, he has never held meetings in Haiti. They have been in Carthagena, Brazil, Venezuela, and Washington. The last two were held in New York. Are the Haitian people under trusteeship? When Dante Caputo invites the crooked senators of the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion] who wrote the Washington Agreement, and a raft of fake senators such as Serge Gilles and Dejean Belizaire, who participated in the Villa d'Accueil [Agreement], and whom the United Nations, the OAS, and even he himself does not acknowledge because they are guilty of fraud, he contradicts himself and proves that he is lying to Aristide and to the Haitian people. The purpose pursued by Caputo is either to appoint a henchmen of the CIA as prime minister, or to force the Haitian people to rise up so the United Nations and the OAS can come to invade, to occupy us like [they do] in Somalia."

Police Disperse Anti-Aristide Demonstration 17 Jul

FL1907155493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1430 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] A demonstration was held on 17 July against Father Aristide. Dozens of people marched in the Champ-de-Mars area [near the National Palace] with music and posters protesting the ousted president's return to Port-au-Prince. They were promptly dispersed, without incident, by police. Several passersby asserted that they were mistreated by the demonstrators.

Report on Interview With General Cedras

FL1907182893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] During an interview given to the AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE on 16 July, General Cedras said that he expected politicians to promptly reach a solution. Gen. Cedras stated: I am expecting steps to be taken quickly by the political class to find a solution because the country is out of breath. He was speaking from his office at the Army General Headquarters.

Discussions started on 14 July in New York, under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAS, between Haitian parliamentarians and political officials of opposing tendencies for a normalization of the parliament aimed at ratifying a new prime minister, which will could result in the lifting of the petroleum embargo on the country.

Gen. Cedras insisted that all those who are concerned by the Governors Island Agreement must carry out their part. He considers that with regard to national reconciliation the most important thing is to create a calm climate. He said that since the fall of the Duvalier dictatorship in 1986, we have lost a lot of time through a climate of hatred and vengeance, whereas the country needs peace and stability.

He pointed out that the National Front for Change and Democracy requested a six-month truce. The general stated that they deal too much with politics to the detriment of the rest. He felt very proud that the Army had opened the path to a lasting solution to the crisis by deciding to go to New York and by signing the Governors Island Agreement first.

His leaving for an upcoming retirement was a personal decision, which was ill-received and misunderstood within the Haitian Army, according to the general, who pointed out that meetings with unit commands took place in order to pass his decisions on and to explain the decisions to the Army grassroots. He said that during military meetings upon his return, the main question was: Why this retirement? President Aristide and the international community thought that this retirement was a factor in the disentanglement. The general stated that he personally took it upon himself because, in his opinion, the country counts first, not his post.

In answering the question as to why pro-Aristide demonstrations were currently prohibited or repressed in the country, the officer thinks that they are outside the legal norms in force, and needed prior authorization, notably a description of the route. So, they must wait to demonstrate. They demonstrate for the return of President Aristide, but this return has already been set. He added that he is now wondering why there are demonstrations now; whereas very shortly, one or two weeks, we will have a new government, which is acknowledged by the international community. During any demonstrations, there may be manipulations, and if incidents occur, the Army will be saddled with them, whereas the spirit of the agreement is calm. He thinks that this agreement must be given a chance. He stated that the times we are experiencing are not favorable for demonstrations. Gen. Cedras pointed out that due to the embargo, a terrible misery, and the rationing of fuel, we are living with great tension. He added that a climate of calm for the physical return of President Aristide must be established.

The head of the Haitian Army went on to say that the new police force, which is provided for by the Constitution, is necessary in a democratic society. He revealed that in 1991, he wrote to President Aristide to tell him that it was not normal for the penitentiary administration to be in the hands of the Army.

He also regretted that there was such a lack of understanding on both sides with the UN/OAS civilian mission in charge of monitoring human rights in the country. The perception is that there is a lack of impartiality from the mission and one must have the impression that it is there for everyone. Finally, he firmly denied information claiming he allegedly intended to form a political party.

Secretary Assesses Progress on NAFTA Parallel Agreements

PA2007044193 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] The Mexico-Spain Business Committee of the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs held a plenary meeting in Mexico City on 19 July. Mexican Commerce Secretary Jaime Serra Puche told prominent Mexican and Spanish businessmen that substantial progress is being made in the negotiations for the parallel agreements between Mexico, the United States, and Canada:

[Begin Serra recording] The progress is very noticeable. I reiterate that we are already reviewing specific texts and hope that at the end of this week we will have a report from the negotiators telling us the few pending points we will have to resolve at the ministerial level. [end recording]

Serra said it is hoped that the parallel negotiations on labor and environmental aspects will be concluded very soon so as to complete the North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] package. He warned that the agreement is closed and there will be no renegotiation.

Responding to concerns by Spanish businessmen, Secretary Serra said NAFTA will not be used as a fortress against the rest of the world:

[Begin Serra recording] If this were done, it would be inconsistent with GATT and would be punished through the GATT. [end recording]

Secretary Serra said negotiations for a free trade zone with Central America and the Group of Three will be concluded this year. The Group of Three is formed by Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela. Bolivia will also be joining this group:

[Begin Serra recording] If you analyze Mexico's trade possibilities and access to markets in two or three years, Mexico will become a center because we will have free access to U.S., Canadian, Central American, Andean, and Chilean markets. [end recording]

The participants in the meeting included Alejandro Sada, corporate vice president of the Televisa Group; Juan Sanchez Navarro; Antonio Ariza; Gilberto Borja; and Carlos and Mario Abedrop.

PRD Elects President, Secretary General

PA1907[illegible]1293 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] After a heated debate, the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] elected a new president. Porfirio Munoz Ledo will replace Robles Garnica and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas after winning the election by a considerable margin. In addition, Saucedo [not further identified] was elected secretary general.

Belize

Prime Minister Esquivel Appoints New Cabinet Members

PA1907220893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1901 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—New Belizean Prime Minister Manuel Esquivel's cabinet is made up of 12 of the 16 Chamber of Representatives (parliament) deputies who were sworn in on 16 July, official Belizean sources reported in Guatemala on 19 July.

The Belizean Embassy in this capital announced the names of the new officials who will replace former Prime Minister George Price's cabinet. Price lost the Belizean general elections on 30 June.

Esquivel, a conservative politician who was prime minister of Belize for five years (1984-89), surprisingly returned to his post with the victory of his party, the Popular Democratic Union (UPD), when he obtained 16 of the 29 seats in Parliament.

The prime minister, who is also the finance and defense minister, appointed Lawyer Dean Barrow as the new foreign minister. Barrow must now review the previous administration's relations with the Guatemalan Government.

Former heads of state George Price and Jorge Serrano Elias established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level in 1991 after Guatemala recognized Belize's independence as a first step in resolving a territorial conflict dating back more than 150 years.

Manuel Esquivel, however, based his electoral campaign on a rejection of those decisions and raised the issue of not granting "an inch" of territory to Guatemala, which is seeking an outlet to the Caribbean.

Barrow must observe a policy based on "anti-Guatemalan and anti-Central American" attitudes, which could be "detrimental" for Belize, former Foreign Minister Said Musa warned.

The rest of the cabinet is composed of politicians, managers, teachers, businessmen, and farmers as follows:

- Prime Minister: Manuel Esquivel
- Finance and Defense: Manuel Esquivel
- Foreign Relations: Dean Barrow
- Natural Resources: Edward Dito Juan
- Agriculture: Russell Garcia
-

Tourism and Environment: Henry Young

Domestic Affairs: Elito Urbina

Energy and Communications: Joseph Cayetano

Health and Sports: Ruben Campos

Education: Eladio Aragon

Urban Development: Hubert Elrington

Commerce and Industry: Salvador Fernandez

Human Resources: Philip Golson

Labor: Melvin Hulse

Costa Rica

Public Employees Strike at Leading Offices, Ministries

PA2007021893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1546 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] San Jose, 19 Jul (NOTIMEX)—On 19 July the country's major public employees union began a two-day general strike to demand the government implement an equitable salary policy.

Albino Rojas, secretary general of the National Association of Public Employees (ANEP), said public institutions and services will be seriously impaired by the strike. The strike is to last two days, according to the Permanent Workers' Council, ANEP, and the Costa Rican Teachers Union (SEC).

SEC Youth Secretary Cascante Araya noted the goal of the strike is to paralyze the country's major education centers.

Cascante charged that Legislative Assembly deputies will grant themselves a monthly pay increase of 75,000 colones ($550), while public employees were only granted a 5 percent increase.

He added that the basic food basket costs 58,412 colones ($418), not counting housing or transportation, while most teachers earn only 46,000 colones ($328).

Workers are demanding a 24 percent wage increase and a salary policy in line with the cost of living.

According to the unions, airports, banks, and piers at the Puntarenas ports on the Pacific and in Limon on the Atlantic will be affected.

The strike will also affect the Public Works, Justice, Health, Finance, Government and Public Security, and Labor Ministries.

The strikes will include leading institutions such as the Costa Rican Aqueduct and Sewage Institute, Agrarian Development Institute, Costa Rican Electricity Institute, and the Costa Rican Oil Refinery.

El Salvador

Cristiani, Mexico's Salinas Sign Cooperation Agreements

PA2007041193 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani signed agreements on 14 July dealing with the struggle against drug trafficking, economic and trade relations, technical cooperation, communications, sports, culture, computer technology, legal issues, and other regional topics.

The presidents agreed to create a Salvadoran-Mexican binational commission to address and follow up the topics on the bilateral agenda. It will meet alternately in the two countries at least once every two years.

After the agreements were signed at the Presidential House, Salinas said: "I am leaving encouraged by the firm steps that have been taken for peace in El Salvador. Mexico will continue contributing so the peace process will be consolidated."

Cristiani thanked President Salinas for his work on behalf of peace in El Salvador and added: "The Salvadoran people have been the real builders of peace and this makes the process irreversible. It is developing satisfactorily and will be consolidated in March when the people will elect their new government."

In a political agreement they signed, the presidents joined the UN request for the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] to comply with the commitments established in the peace agreements, specifically those dealing with the surrender and destruction of weapons.

The first agreement signed by the presidents deals with cooperation to fight drug trafficking and drug addiction. It also includes a Treaty for the Implementation of Penal Sentences, providing for the transfer of prisoners.

They approved the signing of a new extradition treaty and pledged to discuss immigration issues between the two countries so that the human rights of any individual, regardless of whether or not he has documents, will be respected. They expressed their willingness to seek speedy and effective mechanisms to resolve the problems that come up in this area.

The government delegations signed agreements on two programs to be developed from 1993 to 1995. One is a technical cooperation project in the areas of health, agriculture, industry, communications, and transportation. The other program intensifies cultural relations between the two countries through activities to strengthen regional identity and knowledge between the nations.

The presidents, who traveled to Brazil on 14 July to attend the Third Ibero-American Summit, expressed their satisfaction with the beginning of contacts between financial institutions involved in industrial development in the two countries and urged them to undertake joint investment activities.

The presidents signed a sports cooperation agreement between the Mexican National Sports Commission and the Salvadoran National Sports Institute, which will benefit the organization of the Fifth Central American Sports Games to be held in El Salvador in January 1994.

At 1200 on 14 July, the Mexican president signed a technical assistance agreement that will be implemented in various social areas. It will be developed through the Mexican National Solidarity Program jointly with the Salvadoran Social Investment Fund to solve various problems affecting people living in poverty.

Salinas Signs Agreement, Departs for Brazil

PA1607162093 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by Ervin Ortiz from the Presidential Palace in San Salvador—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari departed El Salvador on 14 July satisfied with the agreements reached with his colleague Alfredo Cristiani. The distinguished visitor emphasized the need to strengthen bilateral trade. Trade agreements, which will come into effect very soon, were signed in an atmosphere of optimism, cordiality, and good intentions.

[Salinas] "[words indistinct] I wish to say that immediately there will be great benefits for the economies. If this does not go through it does not necessarily mean that progress cannot be attained by both countries."

[Ortiz] The agreements signed on 14 July refer to reciprocal cooperation in such areas as trade, education, and in technical and financial issues.

[Cristiani] "The fact that Mexico already is negotiating free trade agreements with El Salvador and Central America suggests that El Salvador is about to enter informally the borderless market."

[Ortiz] President Salinas de Gortari also said that to properly complete this plan, true cooperation is needed by all the country's political, social, and economic sectors. He said it is not enough to issue laws, but they also need to be discussed.

[Salinas] "Something needs to be contributed when there are talks, agreements, or pacts. In the Mexican stabilization process unions, businesses, rural leaders, and the government contributed. This is the only way social peace can be built. We must understand that all of us need to contribute."

[Ortiz] The Mexican president, who gave constant support to achieve peace in the country, declined to answer

certain controversial questions regarding the discovery of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front weapons in Nicaragua and only reiterated a wish that the consolidation of democracy should prevail in El Salvador. [passage indistinct]

Before departing to Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, Salinas de Gortari visited the parliament where his speech not only received plenty of applause, but also received favorable comments.

[Unidentified speaker] "President Salinas de Gortari stands out as a transformer of Mexican institutions and a man who has attained Mexico's boost and development. A free-trade agreement is not enough; we need to move ahead in other areas, such as in financial and technical cooperation, investments, support to Salvadoran exports."

[Ortiz] Legislative Assembly President Roberto Angulo defined the visit as a reason for the Salvadoran people to feel proud due to Mexico's contribution to attaining peace in the country.

[Angulo] "Rifles and violence are no longer the tools of struggle. The free flow of opinions at the parliamentary debates reflects the feelings, positions, and proposals of political parties."

[Ortiz] Most social and political segments of the country described as very effective the visit by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. Important commercial and financial agreements were signed and it is expected they will bear fruit in coming months.

PCN Leader Discusses Upcoming Presidential Election

PA2007043793 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Jul 93

["Exclusive" interview with Rafael Machuca, leader of the National Conciliation Party, PCN, by station reporter German Ayala; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ayala] Mr. Machuca: What lies ahead for the National Conciliation Party [PCN] in the upcoming presidential elections? What is the real possibility of the PCN becoming an important political force?

[Machuca] We have been working hard since 1989, when we no longer formed part of the government. First we tried to survive the change of government, which is very difficult to do. Political history shows that political parties leave when the government leaves. We managed to survive. Later we tried to stabilize ourselves, to rebuild our organization.

Now we are trying to move up, move ahead. We have worked hard, first of all, to make sure that we remain in the Legislative Assembly and that we increase the number of our municipal mayors. With the nomination of General Juan Bustillos, we are obviously promoting a project that has not been easy for us, to aspire to the presidency of the Republic.

[Ayala] We noticed that some retired soldiers are joining the PCN. Will the military regain control of the party they once abandoned?

[Machuca] That is one of the possibilities that has been discussed, specifically in view of the presence of Gen. Adolfo Blandon. I want to say sincerely that the PCN is a new PCN. Those of us who have struggled first to survive, later to become stable, and now to move ahead are here with you, talking about this. It would not be a good idea to abandon the efforts we have made for the past 15 years.

[Ayala] It seems that you do not trust the Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena]. Could it be that the military has lost confidence in Arena as a representative of its interests?

[Machuca] I do not think that only the military has lost interest. I think everyone has lost interest. The truth is that there is overall discontent with the current administration. This is not just the feeling among the military. I believe the military joined us, first of all, because it wants to participate. Its members have seen, for example, a struggle that was not too pleasant for them. Now they have to participate from another dimension.

[Ayala] How about the accusations by Captain Mena Sandoval against Gen. Bustillo, involving him in murder and narcotics trafficking? What do you think about this?

[Machuca] I believe this case is more a personal than a political issue. In the event they should have some interests, the party is not going to promote them. We believe there should be seriousness at all levels. In the case of such discussions, if they are going to do something for the country, then we would endorse them. But if the objective is merely to build up their images or for the sake of engaging in discussions as they are doing, then we have no political interest in promoting this.

[Ayala] The Truth Commission mentioned Gen. Bustillos and recommended that he not be allowed to participate in politics. How will this be worked out?

[Machuca] We believe that everyone must be given an opportunity. That is apparent in our party policy. Even before Bustillos became our candidate, we always upheld the theory that the people should be allowed the opportunity to participate. [words indistinct] if we want to build a different country, we must give everyone an opportunity.

Electoral Supreme Tribunal Workers End Strike

PA1707203793 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Report by Edwin Gongora; all figures as heard]

[Text] The strike by Electoral Supreme Tribunal [TSE] workers ended on 16 July after workers accepted a 365 colons wage increase made by TSE magistrates.

[Begin unidentified worker recording] We hereby announce the suspension of the strike. [end recording]

After several attempts were made to end the labor strike that the workers have waged since 6 July, on 17 July the magistrates announced their unanimous decision establishing a wage increase and no penalties against TSE personnel.

[Begin unidentified TSE magistrate recording] The TSE agrees:

1. To increase wages by 325 colons monthly for all TSE personnel from August and September of 1983; and from October to December of 1993, the increase will be 364 colons monthly.

2. To carry out an evaluation and training of all TSE personnel to standardize and increase wages for 1994. [end recording]

In addition, TSE magistrates reported that the personnel who have not been appointed through the salaries law, will be evaluated to be included in the aforesaid payments system.

Meanwhile, workers voiced satisfaction over the agreement and said that this is the result of their constant pressure.

[Begin unidentified worker recording] Although our demands were not fully met, we have obtained a great victory as a labor group. The creation of a labor group is something unprecedented in the TSE. Beginning on 16 July, we will stay in touch with the personnel and will brief them on the victory obtained by [word indistinct]. It is not the magistrates who won, but it is workers who achieved this victory. [end recording]

Following this labor strike, the scheduled process to issue identification cards will begin the week of 11 July so the electoral process scheduled for next year will not be effected.

ONUSAL Chief on Army Involvement in Public Security

PA1607154993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Text] Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, chief of the UN Observers for El Salvador [ONUSAL], on 14 July confirmed ONUSAL sent a letter to President Alfredo Cristiani voicing its disagreement with his decision to involve the Army in public security activities.

President Cristiani based his decision to deploy 3,000 soldiers to the streets beginning 16 July to patrol high crime areas on his constitutional powers. His decision was criticized by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], which claims it violates the peace agreements. The organization that is supervising the agreements signed in Chapultepec has intervened:

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] We sent a letter to Presidency Minister Oscar Santamaria voicing ONUSAL's opinion.

[Unidentified reporter] Is it private?

[Ramirez] Right now it is. [end recording]

It has been reported unofficially the letter sent to Santamaria voices ONUSAL's disagreement with military presence in certain parts of the country. Ramirez added ONUSAL plans to complete soon the verification process relating to the collection of weapons that are exclusively used by soldiers that are in civilian hands.

[Begin Ramirez recording] We completed the verification of weapons that the Salvadoran Armed Forces declared had been distributed to organizations or civilians. I think we will complete this task on 8 August, as was agreed. There are, of course, many weapons out there that will be in civilian hands illegally. [end recording]

The ONUSAL chief said the Assembly must adopt severe legal measures against the possession and bearing of these kinds of weapons once the verification of the collection of weapons in civilian hands is completed. Augusto Ramirez Ocampo also reported the process of destroying FMLN weapons is being complied with rigorously, and should this continue at the same pace, the process could be completed by 4 August.

PCN Supports Armed Forces Role

PA1607154893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jul 93

[Report by Enrique Lemus]

[Text] The National Conciliation Party [PCN] has reaffirmed its support to the government decision to incorporate the Armed Forces into the public security plan. Beginning on 16 July, soldiers will conduct operations to fight crime throughout the nation.

The PCN, through retired General Juan Rafael Bustillo, the party's presidential candidate, underscored the inability of current security forces to fight the high crime rate:

[Begin Bustillo recording] The participation of the National Police has been considered. We know that due to the nature of its organization and membership it does not have the ability to give the protection the people need.

The National Civilian Police [PNC] is being formed and will be enlarged. In view of the situation at the PNC and that it will take some time for it to cover national territory, it is very much necessary for the Armed Forces to play an active role in protecting our people. [end recording]

Bustillo described as bad Salvadorans the members of opposition parties who reject the government measure:

[Begin Bustillo recording] I hope bad Salvadorans who are trying to throw banana peels in the way of the Armed Forces will refrain from doing so, because sooner or later the people will act negatively against those bad Salvadorans who want to discredit the Armed Forces and especially now that the electoral campaign is approaching.

The people must come first. The politicians, through certain front organizations, are trying to cast doubt on the effectiveness of the Armed Forces. I hope they will act as Salvadorans first, because that is what is important. Our country needs production now. You have seen the cost of living increase. This is caused by a lack a incentives to guarantee production. People need trust to produce and in turn reduce the cost of living. [end recording]

Gen. Bustillo said crime is one of the main obstacles to development in the country. To come up with measures to counter crime the government established a commission made up of various institutions. One of the results of its work is the Army's incorporation to anticrime operations. Opposition parties and the Catholic Church have urged the government to find more profound ways to ease the causes that move a segment of Salvadoran society to commit these actions. They also urged the government to offer greater support to the PNC, a group that will soon be solely responsible for the country's public security.

Soldiers Begin Anticrime Patrols

PA1807004693 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 3

[Text] A total of 3,000 soldiers will be deployed as of today on the national territory's roads and rural areas to reinforce the security operations of the National Police and the National Civilian Police.

Defense Minister Colonel Humberto Corado Figueroa yesterday confirmed that "Operation Security" would be initiated today. This operation includes "dissuasive patrols" by the troops in the 15 areas where the crime rate is highest.

Corado stressed that the military action is preventive and the soldiers would take direct action only in cases where they surprise an individual committing a crime or if they are attacked. "Otherwise, the procedures will be the sole responsibility of the National Police."

Corado remarked that the military patrols will be under the command of an officer, in coordination with the National Police or with the National Civilian Police. The national territory has been divided into areas that will be covered by local military units.

In the high-crime areas—the highway to Comalapa and the Northern Highway—the 1st Infantry Brigade (San Carlos Garrison) has been deployed. This unit has soldiers specially trained in patrolling.

"We are facing an emergency, therefore President Cristiani, in keeping with the Constitution, can order the Army to deter the criminals," Corado noted.

Meanwhile, General Juan Rafael Bustillo, presidential candidate for the National Conciliation Party, termed the military patrols "very necessary."

The National Police and the National Civilian Police do not have the ability to protect the community under the current circumstances, added Bustillo, former chief of the Salvadoran Air Force, during a news conference with reporters at his party headquarters.

Gen. Bustillo stressed that there is no problem in sending the Army into the streets as the president is authorized by the Constitution to make use of the Armed Forces to maintain peace.

According to a poll conducted by a Salvadoran television station, 85 percent of Salvadorans support the measure announced by the government. Meanwhile, Rene Figueroa, Nationalist Republican Alliance deputy, said the community is demanding greater protection from the authorities so they can engage in their daily activities in a normal fashion. Figueroa noted that given the Salvadorans' peace has been disturbed, the president is making exceptional use of the Armed Forces.

Figueroa remarked that the leftists reject the measure because their aim if for anarchy to prevail so the community loses faith in the institutions. "They would like very much for chaos to exist because in that way they could continue with their projects of destabilizing the government," Figueroa stated.

Union Rejects Patrols

PA2007040293 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Union of Agricultural and Livestock Workers [Sindicato de Trabajadores Agropecuarios—Sita] has rejected and condemned the measure ordered by President Alfredo Cristiani to deploy a large number of soldiers on the streets. The workers feel this measure shows the government is not ready to abide by the peace agreements or to respect the Constitution that outlines the Army's functions. Sita added that the government lacks justification for the measure since crime has not been fought for years because most criminals are former Armed Forces members.

Sita, from this moment on, holds the Cristiani army responsible for any human rights violation it perpetrates against any Salvadoran. Sita is also asking the United Nations to intercede so the peace process is not rolled back and asks the government to explain the measure. To send the Army out into the streets to perform police duties allows the death squads the opportunity to operate, the Sita members stated.

Political Leaders React To Patrols

PA1807185593 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 11

[Text] On 16 July, the Salvadoran Army, in coordination with the National Police [PN] and the National Civilian Police [PNC], initiated dissuasive patrols to counteract the crime wave in different parts of the country.

Approximately 3,000 soldiers were officially deployed to the capital and on main roads in the city, although the patrol operation did not take place in a massive fashion.

Our reporters were able to observe during their rounds that the Army was not present on the highway to the international airport. They were not present either on the road to Zacatecoluca, nor from this city to San Vicente passing through Tecoluca, which covers part of the coastal highway. In addition, they were not present on the Pan-American Highway to Ilobasco or from Ilobasco toward San Salvador, passing through Cojutepeque and San Martin.

The First Infantry Brigades were seen, however, on the Northern Highway. This was also true in San Salvador near the Layco neighborhood, where groups of eight soldiers with long rifles were seen walking the streets.

Meanwhile, the decision of President Cristiani to authorize the use of Army patrols against crime continues to create polemics among different political sectors.

Rene Figueroa, Nationalist Republican Alliance deputy, said his party fully supports the president. He asserted that "it is an activity to deploy personnel to deter crime and change the tendency of criminals. Additionally, it is a combined action with the PN and PNC."

In addition, Figueroa revealed that this measure is not unconstitutional, adding that human rights are not being violated, as the opposition tried to demonstrate. The deputy explained that "it is not necessary for President Cristiani to appear before the Legislative Assembly to present a report because he is empowered by the Constitution to adopt such actions and he has only fulfilled constitutional provisions."

In the meantime, Angel Gabriel Aguirre, Christian Democratic Party [PDC] legislative wing leader, affirmed that they initially support the measure and hope it serves to justify the existence of thousands of soldiers who do not produce anything for the country.

He stated that the PDC is concerned because the Constitution bounds President Cristiani to report to the Legislative Assembly the reasons for adopting these special measures.

"We are not opposed to any crime prevention action that may be undertaken by the executive. On the contrary, we believe that there should be a stop to criminality and this is important for the PDC," the Christian Democrat deputy expressed.

In addition, the Democratic Convergence, through Deputy Juan Jose Martell, reaffirmed its position that the use of the Army to fight crime is not appropriate, because that is the duty of the PN and PNC. Martell concluded that Cristiani should appear before the Legislative Assembly to explain this matter.

Honduras

Editorial Explores Role of New U.S. Ambassador

PA1907211393 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 5

[Editorial: "The New Ambassador"]

[Text] The new U.S. ambassador has arrived. We are told the diplomat has lots of experience in the field, sufficient knowledge of Latin American problems after his previous posts, and a more discreet style than his predecessor.

In his first statements to the media, Ambassador William Pryce said he pledges to "sponsor democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of justice."

He also said he feels "particularly fortunate to be in Honduras and have the opportunity to work with such an outstanding leader, meaning President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, who has done so much for democracy and his homeland's economic development."

The government, which has had its problems with Crescencio Arcos, surely must be more than pleased with the statements made by the diplomat from the world's foremost power. Results of a recent poll reveal a high degree of acceptance for Crescencio Arcos' actions, particularly because he courageously pointed out many vices and tried to correct them by making them public and using his post to exert pressure. That is why his relationship with the government, military, and other ruling groups was tense at times.

He was called a "meddler" many times. Nevertheless, a majority of the Honduran people termed his actions positive. A recent poll reveals that the Honduran people generally agreed with Crescencio Arcos' actions. In fact, according to the same poll—although there is a lot of discussion about whether ambassadors should meddle in national issues, like Arcos did—a vast majority of the people believe "he was right to meddle."

Those results will surely please the diplomat who recently left to occupy another post in Washington, and in a way they will serve as guidance for the new ambassador. In other words, although it is correct for ambassadors to try to maintain the best possible relationship with the government, their relationship with the country and its people is most important. Consequently, a very pleasing relationship with the government is not always in the best interests of the ambassador's post.

We believe Pryce knows a lot about these countries, but he also says he is "anxious to know the Honduran people, their traditions, and their institutions." We have seen many ambassadors pass through here, but no one remembers them because that was all they did; "pass through here." But others left their mark and made important contributions that earned them the respect of a nation that still remembers their actions with affection.

The United States still plays an important role in our politics and international relations, so the role played by its ambassadors is always a matter of interest. Their opinions and statements are still valuable, although the economic aid we receive is increasingly smaller. There is no reason why we should not believe the new U.S. envoy will play a magnificent role consistent with the prestige he has earned in previous missions.

Nicaragua

Ortega Gives Speech at 14th FSLN Anniversary

PA2007015993 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1603 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Speech by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, commander of the revolution and secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FLSN, on the 14th anniversary of the FSLN victory over the Somoza regime; at the Plaza of the Revolution in Managua—live]

[Text] Nicaraguan brothers: We are meeting at the Plaza of the Revolution again this morning to confirm our commitment to the cause of justice, freedom, full democracy, and peace.

On this 14th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution, we will observe one minute of silence in memory of Sandino, Rigoberto, Carlos, German, Celin, Julio, Jose Benito, Camilo, Gaspar, Arlene, Luisa Amanda, Angelita, the women of Cuas, Pedro Joaquin, Cornelio, Ausberto, Edwin, Ayax, Felix Pedro, and thousands of heroes and martyrs who were tortured, imprisoned, and humiliated by the Somoza dictatorship.

On this 14th anniversary, let us observe one minute of silence for the memory of the thousands of children, women, youth, and men who, in the war imposed by foreign aggression, lost their lives in the fields and mountains, which were stained with the blood of brothers. Let us observe one minute of silence for the memory of the brothers who arrived from foreign lands, including the United States, and who were also sacrificed by the interventionist policy. One minute of silence for the memory of the brothers who are still dying in an armed confrontation, which is irrational under the present circumstances. In the name of all of them, above political and ideological disagreements, sharing the grief of the war maimed and orphans, and the relatives of the fallen ones, let us observe this minute of silence so there can never again be war in Nicaragua. [one minute of silence]

Nicaraguan brothers: After a number of consultations, talks, and meetings, I have pondered carefully the crisis our country is experiencing and the initiatives we should take to prevent the country from sinking into chaos and confrontation. I have also pondered both the role that Sandinism should play as stimulator of the social transformation and change to dignify all Nicaraguans and the steps we should take immediately to make changes in the FSLN. For this reason, I have tried to sum up in this paper what I regard as the steps we should take in the nation and the party to promote changes to strengthen the homeland and Sandinism.

Three years of negotiations and promises by the government that emerged from the 1990 elections have already passed. The Sandinists, workers, farmers, and various sectors of Nicaraguan society in one way or another gave the government an opportunity in the certainty that they were contributing to stability and reconciliation. Once a vengeful minority tried to deny the genuineness of the political, economic, and social opportunities given the Sandinists. This minority has continued to work toward destabilization and against the country's Constitution and bylaws.

We admit that the dialogue was positive and made it possible to end the war. But in other sensitive areas, such as the economy and property, the entire country has suffered constant disappointment. The government raised the people's expectations for an economic takeoff.

You may recall the 100-day plan proposal. You may also recall other proposals regarding bringing in foreign resources. This led the government to give up the compensation that the U.S. Government owes the Nicaraguan people and the situation now is deplorable because the U.S. Government is haggling with Nicaragua and establishing conditions over a few cents when it owes Nicaragua billions of dollars. Therefore, if the United States wants to reconcile itself with justice and international laws, it must begin by recognizing its debt to the Nicaraguan people.

Agreements were reached as a result of the concerted effort among workers, farmers, and the government in October 1992. We supported these agreements. But instead of overcoming the crisis, things have gotten worse. We held many dialogues and negotiations. We participated in the dialogue in May and June. We recently went to the dialogue. But the truth is that these dialogues, negotiations, and agreements have resulted in a constant deterioration of Nicaraguan society, of the sectors participating in the dialogue, and of the country.

Conflicts have worsened. The government signed agreements. Some were partially implemented, others were not complied with at all. In other cases, the negotiation process was so long—because of the government's bad faith or incompetence—that the country continues to bleed and wear itself out.

Meanwhile, armed groups proliferated. Some were encouraged by extremist sectors and others were the

result of the country's economic and social crisis. We are against the rearming of any kind of group in our country. We are in favor of the amnesty the government has announced, an amnesty that must not contain exclusions and that must be complemented by economic and social measures in the war zones so that conflicts may finally be resolved.

We have to admit that the situation is complicated. It is true that the country has been subjected to devastation, war, earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. The government, however, cannot use this as a pretext to try to justify constantly what cannot be justified. If we take that path, we are doomed to disaster. If we take that path, we are headed for chaos. If we take that path, we are headed toward confrontation. We don't want disaster, we don't want chaos, and we don't want confrontation.

I know what is happening. I am convinced the government is following the neoliberal policy to the extreme. It is an economic policy that destroys not only the possibilities for economic renewal, for economic development, but also nurtures in our society the material and spiritual decomposition and degradation of the human being. Neoliberalism promotes egotism. Neoliberalism promotes individualism. Neoliberalism promotes the attitude to each his own. It is the law of the jungle, the survival of the fittest. It tends to destroy human values and turns hearts to stone in the face of the tragedies and suffering of the unemployed, of the hungry, of the impoverished, of the humiliated, who are now a majority in our country.

[Text] The majority of hungry and unemployed are passing to the ranks of the poverty-stricken, while the enriched minorities make themselves more comfortable in the chair of abundance, greed, and the desire to accumulate wealth. That minority uses the government as its instrument to concentrate wealth. Now, spurred by events, that minority is trying to do away with workers' organizations, labor organizations, with decrees and ministerial resolutions. It is bent on carrying out its economic programs and is worsening the crisis. It is increasing prices and imposing more taxes. Logically, this is not the way to solve Nicaragua's problems, the problems that affect the country.

What can we propose to the entire nation when it is the government that is becoming exhausted, not the dialogue. Only the active commitment of each and every one of us, with the mobilization of the sectors affected by the crisis, will save the country. It is urgent that we give clear signs to the government and international organizations. They must understand that at no time has the people's prudence signified submission or acceptance of these economic policies, which have brought misery and unemployment to the Nicaraguan people.

We must promote people's assemblies in each neighborhood, in each district, in each region, in each municipality, in each department. We must promote people's assemblies with peasants, with workers, with craftsmen, with transportation workers, with the unemployed, with women, with the armed forces, with youths, with war cripples, with domestic workers, with retired persons, with Miskitos, Sumus, and Ramas, with natives, with miners, with intellectuals, with technicians and professionals. We must hold people's assemblies and mobilize the people so that the government and international organizations will understand that we reject their international policy, their economic policies, which cut jobs and production. [applause]

We must promote people's assemblies to strengthen fraternity among all sectors, so that sugar production workers will not be left struggling alone, as they have been doing heroically; so that teachers will not be left struggling alone, as they have been doing heroically; so that customs workers will not be left struggling alone, as they have been doing heroically. Nobody must struggle alone. We must all struggle together. Only then will we be strong and achieve new victories. [crowd shouts, chants]

We Sandinists should clearly realize we are not a government or a cogovernment. We, Sandinists, are the people—people who have been degraded, impoverished, and reviled. We, Sandinists, make up the different economic and social groups disregarded by the government's economic policies. We were quite clear in the national dialogue, when we met with the government. We said the following: The ideal thing would be for the government to conclude its term in 1996 but this does not depend on the people; it does not depend on the Sandinists. It depends on the government's behavior!

We said at the national dialogue: If the government changes its economic policies then it will surely finish its term in 1996. The Sandinists want this. But if the government does not end it economic policy then—for sure—it will not complete its term! [crowd shouts, chants: "Daniel, Daniel, Daniel"]

We said rulers are not here to rule. They are here to be ruled by the people. We said rulers are not here to violate the law and the Constitution. They are here to respect them. We also said that, just as rulers are appointed by the people, they can be removed by the people!

The National Opposition Union [UNO] has insisted on seizing control of the government. UNO's proposal at the national dialogue is that its members must own the government. Surely we would then have a much more undemocratic and unpopular government. Simply put, a government like that has no chance of withstanding even one second in our country. [crowd shouts]

We, the Sandinists, have not asked to be part of the government and we are not asking to be part of the government. We, the Sandinists, are not proposing to seize the government. We, the Sandinists, are convinced that, just as we left the government through an election, we will return to the government through an election. [crowd shouts, chants]

What initiative do we propose before these heroic people gathered here in this Plaza of the Revolution on this 14th anniversary? First, the dialogue must be accompanied by the mobilization of all Nicaraguans. This is the only way dialogue can yield results. If we unite and mobilize our people, we will also create the real possibility of sponsoring changes the country urgently needs within a constitutional framework and under the law. A new government of national unity will emerge.

If the current government is exhausted, then we must ask all Nicaraguans, all political, business, and labor sectors, to promote the formation of a government of national unity, something new that will generate trust based on decisions to change, in the first place, the current economic policy. That would be the first commitment such a government. [applause]

It will be a government that will promote the constitutional reforms needed to democratize its actions. It will be a government that will end the land ownership problem. This is what our fatherland demands. This is what Nicaragua demands. This is what we propose, on this 14th anniversary, to all Nicaraguans. [applause]

If the government, the political forces, and the social and economic sectors support this initiative, it would generate trust. Such support would give stability to a true government of national unity. It would be an alternative that would be less costly and more certain to help move Nicaragua forward, without blue helmets and foreign observers. With this alternative, Nicaraguan problems would be solved by Nicaraguan. With it, the Nicaraguan people would do the verifying. [applause]

Sandinist brothers: The crisis affecting Nicaragua must prompt Sandinists to strengthen our coherence, cohesion, and unity. This is the only way to incorporate the people into present and future struggles. It is the only way to create a real possibility of winning the majority vote in Nicaragua's next elections.

At the First FSLN Congress, we vowed to lead the people's struggle for their achievements, rights, and demands. We vowed to take a firm stand to stop, through a mass struggle, all the unpopular measures and activities carried out by right-wing sectors.

We approved the promotion of alliances with other political forces for the sake of the large majority and the nation. At that time the Sandinists approved a declaration of principles and a political platform that, now more than ever, remains in effect.

To identify with these principles and this political platform will certainly increase Sandinist strength and the people's support.

During the Congress, we were not able to complete the agenda of internal Sandinist political discussions. If we learned one lesson it was that now, more than ever, we must take into account the errors made in the past so as not to repeat them in the present, much less in the future.

We must accept that every one of us—every one of us without exception—is constantly liable to make mistakes. Accepting that fact is indispensable so that we, men and women committed to the loftiest causes, can then do good for Sandinism and the people. Not to admit this, however, would be to let vanity and arrogance ruin us. Then we would cause grave harm to Sandinism and the people.

We, Sandinists, must be self-critical and constantly watch our own behavior and attitudes, and judge the attitudes of our comrades. After the Congress, the internal Sandinist debate has been kept open as yet further proof of the strength of a revolutionary organization that practices internal democracy. All of this is not enough. Just as we were able to accept changes inside Sandinism at the first Congress in 1991, we must now have the courage and initiative to promote the new changes Sandinism requires to take on the struggle under new circumstances in favor of the impoverished people.

Article 22 of the FSLN Statutes, paragraph H, on the powers of the Sandinist Assembly makes it clear those powers include summoning an extraordinary Sandinist congress. It is necessary to channel debate in a constructive and fraternal spirit to strengthen Sandinism and to understand that it is urgent to unify political criteria and stances before the elections, to submit the FSLN alternative government program to the people of Nicaragua. In line with all of this, we must also make the necessary changes from the grass-roots level up to the National Directorate.

As FSLN secretary general, I would like ask the support of this people's assembly to propose to the Sandinist Assembly—in line with the powers conferred on it—that it summon an extraordinary FSLN congress, a large FSLN extraordinary congress to bring forth an FSLN that is more united, an FSLN with the necessary political and moral force to regroup and mobilize the large Sandinist family and all the people of Nicaragua. [applause]

This will be a congress in which not only the 120,000 FSLN members and militants will be involved, but all those who have gathered in this plaza, all those who feel they are Sandinists, not only by identification card, Sandinists by heart and conviction. They, too, should get involved in this special FSLN congress. [applause]

Meanwhile, what should we do? We have proposed a government of national unity to overcome the crisis, which is unbearable for the country. We have requested support for our proposal that the Sandinist Assembly call a special FSLN congress.

Meanwhile, what should we do? Our duty is to continue fighting hunger and unemployment; our duty is to continue fighting so the government will not increase unemployment; our duty is to continue fighting so people will not die from hunger; our duty is to continue fighting so farmers can obtain financial assistance; our duty is to continue fighting so beans, which are so expensive now

as a result of the government's bad policies and have become a luxury, can be imported. The government should import beans now so people at least can have access to beans at a price they can pay. We must continue fighting so the OOT [Office for Territorial Organization] does not continue violating the Constitution and laws by becoming a reviewing commission of agrarian and urban property belonging to more than 200,000 families that were benefited by our revolutionary government.

Meanwhile, we must continue fighting for an autonomy law for our brothers on the Atlantic coast. Companies owned by workers should not be taken away from them and returned to Somozist exploiters. Natural resources should not be wasted; our youth should not be brainwashed with fascist educational programs; teachers and students should not be denied their right to organize; privatization of health and education should be discontinued; the Managua mayor's office should not continue charging taxes to merchants and Managua residents, who can bear it no more. The central government should not continue to increase taxes. Labor leaders and workers dismissed as an act of political revenge at the San Antonio Sugar Mill, at customs, and the Education Ministry should be reinstated.

There should be no more attempts against the state of law. We can no longer permit alienation from the fatherland's sovereignty—violating the laws and Constitution—by the government in a servile manner. The government may not like that term, but it is the right word, there is no other word. The government has adopted a servile position in accepting impositions by foreign governments.

There should be no more attempts against the democratic achievements made 14 years ago, which should be reaffirmed and strengthened during this new historical phase of Nicaraguan society. In commemorating the 14th anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist people's revolution from this historical Plaza of the Revolution, we join the millions of human beings who demand profound changes in economic and political relations, in the relationship between a wealthy North, a North that is getting richer each day, and the peoples of the South, who are more and more unemployed and impoverished.

We demand the democratization of the UN system so that organization will no longer be an instrument of hegemony. We demand the an end to the killing in Somalia by UN forces that arrived to distribute bread and have ended up distributing bombs and bullets. We demand this democratization so the blockade against the peoples of Libya and Iraq is lifted, so the rights of the Palestinian and South African peoples are recognized, so the blockade imposed on the Cuban people for more than 34 years by U.S. governments is lifted. We demand this democratization to support clearly the return of the Haitian president; to attain peace in Guatemala through negotiation and dialogue between the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity and the government; to ensure compliance with the agreements signed between the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Salvadoran Government; so the world can be democratized and not tyrannized; to end the destruction of our environment, and most of all to end the destruction of human beings caused by the greed and selfishness of a few other human beings.

Here in Nicaragua, we will continue fighting with the same conviction with which we fought against the Somoza dictatorship until we defeated it, with the same firmness with which we faced foreign aggression until we defeated it. Now we must fight to defeat unemployment, hunger, vengeance, injustice. Now we must fight to eradicate all those evils threatening to take over the conscience of Nicaraguan society.

We tell all Nicaraguans, our brothers in the armed forces, members of the Sandinist People's Army and the police, that we remain united by the same cause that has been the reason for our existence and that kept us united during our struggle against the Somoza dictatorship. We remain united in our struggle for another cause: the economic and social emancipation of the Nicaraguan people. This cause continues to be linked closely to the cause of defending self-determination and sovereignty.

We have new challenges on our respective working fronts, respecting our Constitution, laws, and the state of law we must defend. Fourteen years ago we celebrated victory, joyfully gathering at this same plaza. We had defeated Somoza. Today our duty is to remain united and struggle tirelessly to attain new victories. We, children of this homeland of Augusto Cesar Sandino and Ruben Dario, assume this challenge again.

Long live the unity of Sandinism!

Long live the unity of all the people!

Long live the 14th anniversary of the triumph of the Sandinist people's revolution!

Sandino lives!

Toward new victories!

Free fatherland [crowd responds: "or death!"]

FSLN Center Group Calls For Party Relection

PA1607164893 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 Jul 93 p 2

[Communique issued by the Coordinating Commission of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, Center Group; place and date not given]

[Text] The Sandinists who favor a National Project, who have risen from within the rank and file of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] as a democratic and renovating current, in view of the recent pronouncement by the Group of 29 fellow party members.

Whereas:

That Nicaragua currently is confronting a pressing crisis with serious economic, political, and social consequences; that the activities of armed groups has increased alarmingly and maintains the northern part of the country in a continuous state of anguish; that unemployment, poverty, and deprivation has encouraged an increase in criminal activities; that impunity has further encouraged criminal activity and terrorism; that the defiant speech by Somozist right-wing groups purports to return the country to its past; and that the recent proclamation by the Group of 29 new opinion current opposes the main aspirations of all Nicaraguans in general and the Sandinists in particular to secure peace, social stability, institutionality, and the state of law on behalf of the nation's welfare.

We hereby declare:

1. That the Group of 29 pronouncement published by some newspapers on 12 July 1993, denying the validity of the dialogue and the negotiation as a solution to the crisis we are confronting, as well as calling on Sandinism to adopt positions of belligerence and confrontation, is an open call to embrace violent forms of struggle with unpredictable and irreparable consequences.

2. That we hold the government and extremists sectors of the UNO [National Opposition Union] responsible for not adopting a serious position with respect to the dialogue, as well as for the lack of a National Project and a democratic program that includes all Nicaraguans. In no case can we accept that Sandinism has paid a political price for conducting itself within the framework of the Constitution.

3. That the people's mandate to secure peace and well-being still prevails. We are deeply convinced that only through a National Project that includes all Nicaraguans will we be able to propel Nicaragua from a state of social disintegration, moral decomposition, institutionalized corruption, as well as a disregard for the basic needs of the people, and to overcome the effects of government economic policies that encourage consumption to the detriment of productivity.

4. That the possible gains that could be attained by the Somozist project is a result of the political and economic mistakes made by the current government, a mistaken leadership by Sandinism, and the absence of a renovating democratic political proposal.

5. That the solution to the problem of the rearmed groups must be found through dialogue and negotiation, and not through armed options. True respect for law and order is necessary to end this problem, as well as a need for the government to honor all agreements contracted.

6. That the dialogue, as a way to solve social conflicts must never be considered exhausted. On the contrary, it must be reinforced with mechanisms that will ensure the fulfillment of the agreements accomplished through the establishment of a national commission that will oversee the completion of said agreements.

7. That we reaffirm our support for the civic struggle in defense of employment, the people's well-being, and against poverty within the framework of legality and true respect for the Constitution of the Republic.

8. That all Sandinists committed to democracy would like to make a call encouraging Sandinist unity for the nation's benefit, and once again we ratify our concern for the absence of representativity and political coherence by the current FSLN leadership. Thus we invite all Sandinists to become involved in a needed process of FSLN democratization and renovation.

In concluding, the Sandinists in favor of a National Project would like to make a friendly call to the Group of 29 for calm and mature reasoning that will defuse the polarization, and contribute positively to peace and national reconciliation.

[Signed] Coordinating Commission: Francisco de Asis Fernandez Arellano, Oscar Tellez, Raul Venerio, Julio Lopez Miranda, Gloria Gabuardi, Antenor Ferrey, Orlando Castillo Estrada, Alfredo Alaniz, Carlos Molina Oliu, and Augusto Montalegre.

Article Views Sandinism, Possible Alliances

PA1807220593 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Jul 93 p 11

[Article by Oscar Rene Vargas: "In the Face of the National Crisis: Alliance or Confrontation?"]

[Text] A general balance in Nicaraguan society is a complicated phenomenon: The government builds the balance, breaks it, rebuilds it, breaks it again, and, in passing, tries to augment its hegemony.

Within the economic realm, the recession and the adjustment program constitutes the disruption and reestablishment of balance. In the relationship between social classes, disruption in relative equilibrium consists of strikes and plunging state agriculture and industrial enterprises into receivership. Within the political realm, disruption is expressed in constant government zigzagging, intransigence by the most reactionary sectors, and the lack of an alternative program by the Sandinists. Nevertheless, they all seek to reestablish an equilibrium through a national dialogue.

We are witnessing two economic activity processes: national wealth and GDP are falling while the wealthy sectors become wealthier. Poverty increases, capital concentrates more and more in the hands of small economic groups, and private banks continue to proliferate. Everything mentioned before inevitably leads to a social struggle, which becomes more and more severe as a result of the lack of employment and the drop in purchasing power of those who are employed. As long as tangible assets continue to shrink, so much more will social resistance by the poorest sectors grow, and disagreements related to dividing national wealth among economic groups will also exacerbate.

The upper class bourgeoisie continues to get richer despite the country's ruinous condition. They continue to take over increasing shares of a national wealth that shrinks more and more with each passing day. This in itself is an element that breaks social equilibrium. The poorest sectors are unconcerned about statistics, but are concerned with any fall in their standard of living, and they strive to increase their share of the national revenue. Peasants are despondent with the fall in agriculture economy and credit restriction; the small- and medium-sized bourgeoisie are ruined and incensed. Under these conditions, some Sandinist sectors believe that social struggle is the best mechanism to recover economic equilibrium.

A Delicate Equilibrium

There is no doubt that the most reactionary sectors of the bourgeoisie have recovered a certain political vitality in the national scenario. Nor is there any doubt that Somozism has reinforced its economic and political presence in the country through the return of property that was confiscated as per Decrees No. 3 and No. 38, as well as by government vacillation and complicity. Somozism and the extreme right are hurrying to draw conclusions from the alleged crisis within Sandinism and are thereby seeking to force the complete breakdown of the political equilibrium.

A disruption of the current equilibrium means that the government will cease being "independent" of the two opposing poles. The fact that the origin of the government's existence lies in having been able to neutralize irreconcilable sides in no way whatsoever means that the economic, social, and political forces are permanently equal on the balance scale. The government represents nothing more than the point where all great actors in the Nicaraguan drama intersect. That is why, and only why, it is necessary for Sandinism to begin direct political negotiations with all those forces from the center within UNO [National Opposition Alliance].

The Alliance Tactics

During the past three years, the government would most of all tend to calm the Sandinist rank and file with unkept promises. Today, with the general equilibrium broken, evidenced by the worsening economic crisis, the increasing social debt, and the political resurgence of socialism, the government hesitates and paralyzes itself, and it applies policies where it does not seek to negotiate any concrete issue that would allow it to reconstruct the equilibrium. Yet, it does not have all the instruments to control the situation.

The country is experiencing a basic contradiction. On one side there is an economic and social decomposition. On the other we are at the highest peak, so far, of a counterrevolutionary political strategy. It is necessary for this to be understood clearly in order to establish the tactic to be used for an alliance or for a confrontation.

There must be alliances with political sectors that allow Sandinism to block the advances made by reactionary groups. Alliances made to reach agreements with respect to constitutional reforms that allow rebuilding the political balance. An alliance to encourage a national program against poverty and reconstruct social equilibrium. An alliance to reestablish the necessary changes to the [Economic] Adjustment Program to renew economic equilibrium and prevent the wealthy from becoming wealthier and the poor from becoming more wretched.

There must be an all-out struggle against Somozism without Somoza, against the government's wavering attitude, against the vindictive disposition adopted by some government officials, and against extreme right-wing sectors intent on causing a new war that will allow the entry of blue or yellow [amarillos] helmets.

Sandinism must avoid any impatience that will prevent it from acknowledging necessary tasks that must be carried out. There is need to prepare and develop an economic plan that will allow us to better defend the cause of the most needy.

Ortega, Mendieta News Conference

PA1607215493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1526 GMT 15 Apr 93

[News conference by Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta and Defense Minister General Humberto Ortega Saavedra with unidentified moderator and foreign and local reporters at the Presidency Public Relations and Official Information Directorate in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] [Mendieta] Ladies and Gentlemen: We thank you for your presence here this morning. President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro asked the government minister, the Army commander, and the National Police director to prepare contingency measures to face the violent situation in the country's northern area.

We have been holding permanent working sessions to determine the activities that will be carried out in the case of groups that do not directly accept the amnesty that the government proposes and that insist on their plans to destabilize the country and create a crisis.

The government is willing to make an effort to prevent this from happening once and for all. It is also important to note that the president said that this is the last chance that these armed groups will have to seek the protection of a legal process that will allow them to join fully the country's socioeconomic life.

It is important to point out that, through two amnesties decreed in our country, we were able to demobilize and disarm approximately 22,000 members of the Nicaraguan Resistance and the Sandinist People's Army in 1992. We also implemented a plan to guarantee life and employment in the country's northern area where the government had suspended certain basic freedoms.

Since you have some questions, we do not want to extend ourselves in these explanations. We want to allow the national and international media to proceed, quickly, to the question and answer period so that we can respond to any questions you may have.

I repeat, we thank you for your presence and let us proceed to the question and answer period. However, Gen. Ortega will also make an introductory statement first.

[Ortega] Good day. As the government minister said, the Government Ministry authorities, the police high command, and the Army General Staff have been working to improve and strengthen gradually our many operational plans and particularly to counteract the situation prompted by the rearmed forces in the northern part of the country. We did this also to support the police effort to combat crime, which has increased due to the activities of the unconventional armed groups.

During the month of February we worked on a plan whereby we would firmly counteract these armed groups' activities which have resulted in dozens of victims and caused considerable concern, particularly among the general public, including peasants, farmers and merchants and among inhabitants of the northern part of the country which has been affected by the activities of these unconventional forces as well as by the activities of criminal gangs. Thus we have prepared an entire plan to ensure order and security throughout the country, particularly in the northern part of the country, thus ensuring the basic stability that will allow us to deal with our fatherland's serious economic and social problems.

We have thus prepared a two-part plan. It is important to note that these two phases of the pacification plan for 1993 are accompanied by the announcement that the president of the Republic has sent the second phase of the amnesty bill to the National Assembly. Although from February until now our position has not been offensive from the operational standpoint, we have prevented these rearmed forces from going totally unpunished. Due to the efforts of the country's authorities, as you reporters know, over the past few months we have inflicted dozens of casualties on these unconventional recontra and recompa forces. In this meritorious and sacrificial effort, up until 14 July the forces of order in Nicaragua have suffered casualties. They have become victims while fulfilling their duties.

Nevertheless, the analyses approved by the president of the Republic established that to make greater progress with the plan to totally pacify the entire country, especially the northern part of the country where the people experience insecurity and tragedy on a daily basis, it was necessary to establish an offensive involving the implementation of truly severe laws in the judicial and military spheres. The analyses also called for the implementation of various programs as part of the plan to end this situation. We needed an offensive plan that within the shortest time possible would end this tragedy, which has particularly affected farmers, workers in general, coffee producers, cattlemen, and merchants from the regions affected by this problem.

The government minister, the police chief, the country's top authorities, the Presidency, and we unanimously agree that to be able to rigorously implement the law on these irregular armed groups and to more rigorously impose order in the entire country and, especially, on people who encourage, promote, and back irregular and illegal activities by armed groups—be they recontras or recompas—it is important to give a last opportunity to members of those irregular groups who have informed police, Government Ministry, and Army authorities about their willingness to abandon armed activities if some of their demands are met and if they are offered legal protection. Because of this, the possibility of granting an amnesty was considered and it is in this framework that an amnesty makes sense and is understandable.

We have been making estimates on the cost of military operations. Confronting 1,400 or 1,500 armed men is not the same as confronting half, or less than half, that force. Looking at it this way, an amnesty is worth 1,000 clashes. It spares blood and effort. It avoids destruction and the spilling of blood. If through an amnesty, more than half of that force goes civilian; and if all these armed people, or most of them, react by rejoining peaceful civilian life in spite of the grave economic situation in the country, then we would have been working in the right direction.

Amnesty is an integral part of the total pacification effort without which it would be difficult to secure the stability the nation needs to be able to face the grave economic and social crisis the entire nation is enduring. It is with this in mind that we have granted an amnesty. It is in this context that we are appealing to the irregular forces to enter the security belts to join civilian life and to leave behind, forever, armed violence.

Regardless of all the problems this country has, there is no justification for anyone taking up arms.

Once this period, which is the first phase of a general plan, is over, we will enter a second phase. As the government minister has said, neither the military, nor the Government Ministry or the police authorities have any plan to ask the president to grant a new amnesty. We believe this will be the last amnesty. There can be no more amnesties. We believe that in the future we will have to apply the full weight of the law on whoever violates legal order, be it in the north, or in Managua, on a street, or in a region. Everywhere.

In this regard, once the deadlines are fulfilled, once the rearmed men enter the security areas that have been mentioned in the draft bill regarding those who were [word indistinct] on 18 May and who, as of 12 July when

the president announced this project, have not committed any more crimes, will have until 31 August to, in a patriotic manner, leave these activities behind and join the country's normal life.

Once this process is completed, if there are still any groups challenging the nation, the peace, endangering the producers, and threatening the nation's peace with their activities, we have a plan, which has already been approved and announced, to undertake offensive operations against the groups that may still resist rejoining the country's orderly life.

I want to end by saying that after studying the problem for many days, we have found no other solution for it than the one I have mentioned. There is no other way to ensure that those people will reenter the system because they are fearful that they will be tried for charges, which could be presented by anti-Sandinists or Sandinists, if they accept to come forward under the amnesty process. We, thus, have found no other way to resolve the matter. Their decision to accept or not to accept this reasonable solution [words indistinct] the country to enter a new phase and to ensure law, order, and the security that people demand despite our economic situation.

[Unidentified reporter] I would like to ask the members of [words indistinct] of the government if they believe the measures you have mentioned will ensure [words indistinct] military operations will eradicate the root of the problem that has prompted this outgrowth of violence? That is my first question. I would also like to hear the opinion of the Armed Forces members on the announcement made by the U.S. State Department spokesman. He stated that U.S. aid to Nicaragua will be jeopardized if there are no drastic changes in the Armed Forces and [words indistinct]. I want to ask the government minister specifically to confirm if it is true that [words indistinct] to trigger a dynamite attack [words indistinct] against the Presidency installations.

[Mendieta] We have stated that we trust the amnesty process will drastically reduce the number of armed groups in the country. We believe amnesty is one of the most important demands posed by the sectors who currently are up in arms in the country. However, the rates of violence in Central and Latin America indicate that no country is exempt from violence. We consider that we will not totally eradicate—there is no country that is [word indistinct] pure and has a zero rate of [words indistinct]—but we do believe that this measure will allow us to eradicate the most dangerous groups. We will use this method to combat all those dangerous groups so that we can have greater stability in Nicaragua.

We believe—as has been pointed out by Gen. Ortega—that if 50 percent of the armed men avail themselves of this amnesty, and that after the process, the remaining sectors are attacked by the Armed Forces, the plan we currently are implementing will achieve total success. Meanwhile, we have no official report on the dynamiting of the Presidency; nevertheless there were some attempts by organizations to take over the Presidency. The National Police director and I discussed the matter, we have taken preventive measures and we currently have the situation under total control.

[Ortega] [Words indistinct] with regard to the root of the problems. This is a worn out phrase. To those who in one way or another want to justify the armed situation in this country, I would like to point out that there are many problems here of an economic and social nature. There are problems here that point to certain noncompliance by the government in different aspects. There are also problems in which the workers accuse the employers of noncompliance, however, there are also accusations by the employers of noncompliance by the workers on other obligations. There are also accusations by the unions against the company and vice versa. In addition, at the same level, there is a crisis involving mutual accusations. This, however does not justify getting up in arms [words indistinct].

Nevertheless, no matter how many problems there are, there is no justification for any citizen who is up in arms to kill, there is no justification to set fire to vehicles, there is no justification for the cowardly kidnapping of producers and private citizens. There is no justification for extortion, as is happening with the producers who are enduring the crisis, who are risking their capital here in Nicaragua. These people are victims of extortion, their children and they themselves are subjected to kidnappings. With their work....[pauses] their investments generate jobs for the peasants. There is no justification.... [pauses] it is not possible for any media or any political party—no matter what ideology or what political position—to be justifying armed action.

If this were so, everyone could be armed to allegedly claim his rights. Where would this take us? What are we going to achieve with more armed action? Are we going to have greater production, will there be more jobs? [words indistinct] this country. Do those who call for radical actions—on one side or the other—believe that there will be more activity here, more [words indistinct], more investment, more production, more jobs, less want, less poverty? By chance, will we end in this manner the poverty in Nicaragua against which we have struggled all our lives?

So I ask from this podium today for all political forces present here to clearly contribute and support those who are giving their blood, their sacrifice, their effort: the soldiers of the Army, the police, the governorship peace delegates. I ask for you to contribute by not encouraging these armed groups to carry out armed actions; to contribute by openly condemning such armed actions and providing names. I ask the political parties to issue public statements saying that there is no justification in this country for anyone to pick up a weapon, to kidnap, to murder, and organize armed groups in the cities or the mountains, no matter what the cause. That is the truly

responsible stance for a political leadership, a political party, or a force such as the media, which you represent, to take.

[Unidentified representative of Cosep, the Higher Council of Private Enterprise] You have not answered the question by Jose Catin about U.S. aid.

[Ortega] I beg your pardon?

[Cosep representative] You have not yet answered the question by Jose Catin about U.S. aid.

[Ortega] I think that he should be more careful about what he says. Mr. Catin has said that it was reported that the aid had been frozen and that they are asking for the High Command to be removed. As far as I have heard, no such thing has been said. What has been said is that there must be greater guarantees for submission of the military command to the civilian government authority. That is what I read. Perhaps we read different cables. In any case, I think that what is more important is that our conscience is clear. We have sufficient authority.

I would like to look at our actions regarding terrorism. We have stated clearly our stance regarding the Santa Rosa weapons cache. The U.S. media and the local media have reported on the statements made by the Secretary of State for various reasons. We have stated our position and our rejection of whomever acts illegally in Nicaragua. We hereby hold the EP.... [pauses] or the Salvadoran guerrilla groups responsible for this incident. We also have a very clear position regarding the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty Organization], which is also irresponsibly linked to the plans of the Salvadoran guerrilla groups. They have irresponsibly betrayed the Nicaraguan interests and the interest of their alleged political friends, by working here devising terrorist plans and kidnapping plans in the past. Fortunately, this explosion exposed the irresponsible activities of these ETA terrorists, who also carried out terrorist actions here endangering Nicaraguan safety and endangering the safety of the Nicaraguan institutions.

Those who are against the true stability of Nicaragua and, for various reasons, against the way authority is enforced through the Army, and those who are against the way the president has been managing this issue, are using this as a pretext for the somewhat hasty statements, such as those issued by the State Department. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that we, as an armed organization, have been against this terrorist activity. If there was tolerance in the past it was due to the war. Since the government changed and the war was left behind, there has been no more tolerance. We have made this very clear to those who benefited from this tolerance policy in the past.

Not only have we condemned those events but we have also cooperated fully with the investigations carried out by the Government Ministry and the police to cast out the people who have abused Nicaragua's historic solidarity and who, in an irresponsible and truly terrorist manner, have exploited our territory. Especially, the ETA people who even kept files on their abductions and other types of illegal actions as has been demonstrated by [words indistinct]. We must also point out that we continue to give all our support to the Government Ministry in its efforts to apprehend the people who fled after the Santa Rosa explosion.

[Mendieta] [words indistinct] more talked about in the past days. I would like to clearly refer to the document allegedly signed by (?Senator McCain). The document mentions the possibility that the Nicaraguan Government has been somewhat amenable to terrorist groups in the country.

I believe the Nicaraguan Government's political will to combat terrorism and drugs—activities that are linked in more than one way—is completely evident. The government publicly presented all the evidence found at the Santa Rosa cache explosion site. The media had access to the information and national and international circles amply debated the event because the government presented the evidence to the corresponding courts of justice so that the legal proceedings could advance expeditiously.

Furthermore, the Nicaraguan Government coordinated actions with Spain, Ecuador, Canada, Switzerland, Germany, the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, Guatemala, the UK, France, Uruguay, El Salvador, and other Central American countries and gave them the corresponding documents found at the cache. Brazil, in particular, and Venezuela, Mexico, and Ecuador were given all the documents found at the Santa Rosa cache.

At the FBI and Interpol level, we have held important meetings to determine the way the terrorist groups operated. We also requested Interpol's help—the meeting was held at my office—to establish a work group for the investigations. The deputy government minister has instructions to formalize the matter through the Foreign Ministry. We requested all the countries, which have been invited to the work group, to send a representative to help in the framework of the investigations.

I just returned from Mexico, where I met with Mexican Government Secretary Patrocinio Gonzalez, Federal District Attorney General (Diego Valdes), and Attorney General Jorge Carpizo with whom we also designed some mechanisms and exchanged important information that was sent to the Mexican Government to contribute even more in these investigations.

I want to point out that the deputy attorney general for the Federal District of Mexico is arriving here on 15 July to continue with the investigations. We are placing the Army, police, and the Government Ministry at his service; we are providing him with all the necessary facilities so that he may expand on his investigations.

Likewise, it is important to point out the fact that the evidence found at the Santa Rosa cache allows us to conclude that these documents have not been updated

since 1990, and most of the information is evidently primary information, mainly newspaper clippings and other minor things. There was some important information on some citizens, particularly Brazilians and Mexicans who were being investigated in greater depth, but none of this was updated after 1990.

This also clearly shows that as of that date and up to today, there has not been any important activity of feeding more information, or weapons trafficking in this case that could determine that this government could be an accomplice of such activities.

Nonetheless, it is very important to note we have (?delivered) 19 missiles, that is very important armament. The international authorities have pointed out that these documents on the kidnappings that were found are considered the most important ever found in the world. Those documents are being investigated and analyzed by various governments, the FBI, and Interpol.

I also want to point out the letter sent by the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] in which Mr. Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, special representative for the UN secretary general, tells me:

Dear Mr. Minister: Through this letter, I wish to reiterate my personal gratitude and that of the Onusal delegation for your kind welcome during our recent visit, and for the very complete and efficient manner in which we were presented with the information on the grave situation of the discovery of the weapons cache recently found in Managua. At the same time, I wish to congratulate you and your team, as well as the police authorities on the quick and intelligent manner in which you are conducting the respective investigations. We also wish to offer our full cooperation for the total clarification of the events.

Yours truly,

[Signed] Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, special representative for the secretary general.

We have other letters in addition to this one, and, I repeat, we are in constant touch with various other governments which are affected by the documents found at the Santa Rosa cache. I believe this makes is absolutely clear what is the political willingness of our government and the decision of the Armed Forces of this country to contribute efficiently to eradicate completely narcotics trafficking and terrorism in our country. It particularly shows that our country will not form a pact with these types of terrorist organizations. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified reporter] Gen. Humberto Ortega Saavedra, do you know if, according to President Violeta Chamorro, the date for your retirement will be in 1999? [words indistinct] My other question is: Do you agree with the partial amnesty granted by the president, which excludes the criminals of the punitive forces?

[Ortega] Regarding the issue of amnesty, the law provides that all rearmed individuals come into the designated security zones in accordance with the chronology and the official list or records as of 18 May, will benefit with this amnesty. Ever since the president announced the amnesty law, it was said that it was not an alternative to criminal processing. Any rearmed person who truly wishes to contribute to the country's peace efforts and enters one of the zones will benefit from the amnesty law.

Regarding your question about the Military Organic Law, I have already answered journalist (Thorton) that the law currently is being studied. It will probably be sent to the president and she will send it to the assembly for approval. The law will contemplate all that regarding the institutional life of the Army, including the duration of an appointment to the various command positions within the Army which logically include mine. As soon as the law is approved I will find out how much longer I will be in my post.

[Moderator] Journalist Ada Luz Monterrey. Isidro Lopez, from ACAN, and Alvaro Cruz from LA TRIBUNA please be ready.

[Monterrey] My question is specifically for Gen. Humberto Ortega. Good morning, greetings from El Atabal. General, Antonio Lacayo recently announced that the EPS had requested the presence of UN peacekeeping troops in Nicaragua to offer training, military education, and other such things. Monsignor Bosco Vivas, the president of the Episcopal Conference, also requested the presence of the blue helmets to contribute to the Nicaraguan peace process. First, Commander Daniel Ortega rejected your petition and three days ago, President Chamorro discarded the Catholic Church's request. I would like to know if there is any difference between your proposal and the Church's proposal for UN peacekeeping troops to come to Nicaragua. Lastly, the church says the Nicaraguan people have lost their sensibility. I would like to know if you have lost it?

[Ortega] Right. Look. I believe that, unfortunately, there has been some confusion probably because I failed to explain clearly each step that is being taken. With respect to the EPS petition related to the UN standby forces as they are called, this was assessed by FSLN Secretary Gen. Daniel Ortega from a mistaken perspective. Former President Ortega pointed out something which the EPS has never suggested. Afterwards, the media also decided to reject something the Army never proposed. Moreover, media representatives such as BARRICADA practically doubted the official version with respect to this issue which was disclosed by the EPS through its spokesman, Colonel Ricardo Wheelock. We would like to state clearly that we would never accept an intervention by anyone, not only because we consider ourselves patriots, but also because within the framework of the Constitution, the law and this country's practical needs, there is no use for an intervention here. Therefore, what the EPS has, and it has stated it here, is that we consider

it necessary and positive for Nicaragua, for the Army, to have a more active role in the UN concert of nations.

For that purpose, as the Foreign Ministry confirmed on 14 July, a mission of UN officials will be arriving in Nicaragua in the next few days to explain to the Army and other Nicaraguan authorities what this seminar they plan to mount here in the future will consist of.

I must mention that this plan does not include the installation of any military base. There will be no UN forces, contingents, battalions, detachments, squads, or any armed group. There will never be a threat of that kind here. UN experts will come here, and [words indistinct] to prepare members of the Army and officials from other ministries on the functions that Nicaragua could assume to assist the United Nations—if it so decides in accordance with the interest of the Nicaraguan Government at the time—in specific approved missions. That is all. There is no request for military bases, or for UN military forces that could endanger our sovereignty, as reported by the Sandinist media.

On the other hand, we are firmly opposed to requests promoted by the rightist media, who are in favor of bringing blue helmets or interventionist troops sponsored by the United Nations to Nicaragua to supplant the constituted authorities in Nicaragua and become judge and jury in the solution of the country's problems. We will never accept that kind of pact. I must stress that the president has already stated this, and that we support fully the president's patriotic and nationalist position. [passage omitted]

[Mendieta] To conclude, I would like to briefly summarize the scope, within the legal framework, of the amnesty bill that the president has sent to the National Assembly.

This document is based on the following aspects:

It will benefit Nicaraguans who were up in arms by 18 May 1993 as long as they enter the security zones no later than 31 July and demobilize no later than 31 August. It does not cover persons who have committed crimes of war or against mankind. It covers, however, political and related common crimes committed until 12 July 1993.

No one will be allowed to bear weapons in the Departments of Matagalpa, Jinotega, Esteli, Madriz, Nueva Segovia, Boaco, Chontales, and Zelaya as of 31 July, with the exception of the security areas where the armed groups will be concentrated.

A prohibition on bearing weapons throughout the national territory will be implemented effective 31 August 1993.

These measures—and this must be understood clearly—will not affect the functions and purpose of the Tripartite Commission created by the Verification Protocol of 2 October 1992 for the investigation of incidents and cases submitted for its consideration and determination of responsibility.

Finally, those benefited by the law will receive from the Government Ministry a demobilization document certifying their status.

We also want to stress, as we have throughout this news conference, that this will be the last opportunity offered to the armed groups to accept the legal measures that will enable them to participate in the process of joining the country's normal life.

We appreciate your presence here. Thank you very much.

Army Operations Force Recontras To Surrender in North

PA1707041893 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 5

[Report by Juan Carlos Sarmiento]

[Text] Matagalpa—The Sandinist People's Army, EPS, military actions against rearmed groups have forced recontra combatants to disarm. The recontras had ambushed and destroyed vehicles and murdered several civilians in various northern areas recently.

On 15 July the EPS reported that a wing of the rearmed combatants had left the recontra group headed by Chele Rafael [not further identified]. The combatants turned over their rifles to the Special Disarmament Brigade, BED, during a small demobilization ceremony in Rio Blanco on 14 July.

The now former recontras Reynaldo and Adolfo Lopez Guzman, Julio Benavidez Castillo, Ricardo Lopez Castro, Vicente Espinoza Ruiz, Francisco Garcia Sanchez, and William Hernandez Gonzalez, all of whom surrendered their weapons during the ceremony, had participated in armed actions in La Patriota, Matiguas 10 days ago.

One soldier and two combatants have died during the army's operations to reestablish rural security in the area. Concepcion Angulo Lazo, a peasant girl, was also killed in the clashes.

EPS Mayor Modesto Rodriguez reported that more than 130 people have surrendered their weapons to the BED in the past few months.

The former combatants receive money in exchange for their weapons. Mariano Guerra, program coordinator for Regions One and Six, reported that Italy cooperates financially with the disarmament program and has also lent its support to 160 small business ventures.

Commentary Questions Declaration by FSLN Militants

PA1707185393 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Jul 93 p 10

[Commentary by Pedro Joaquin Chamorro: "The Statement by the 29"]

[Text] Within the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] there always were, as happens in every society, two factions: one radical and the other moderate or pragmatic.

The moderates made alliances with the "bourgeoisie" and the "bourgeois democracies," such as the ones in Venezuela and Costa Rica. They also talked of democracy with the "of the people" appellation.

For some moderates at the other end of the political spectrum this "of the people" thing even sounded pretty, but it soon became evident what this appellation meant.

The moderate sectors within the FSLN prevailed in the Nicaraguan power structure, and, in turn, the radicals' share of power was less significant, although they devoted themselves to controlling the sinister state security apparatus—the repressive apparatus.

In the wake of the electoral defeat, the moderate sectors tried and were able to maintain a major share of power, making alliances in and out of the Assembly with the Executive through Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo. This situation, in turn, alienated the National Opposition Alliance to the point that it basically became an opposition coalition.

The alliance between the government and the FSLN moderates led to a greater exclusion of the radical Sandinist wing from the government and the decision-making structures.

With the weakening of the government and the strengthening of anti-Sandinist alternatives, such as Managua Mayor Arnoldo Aleman, for the 1996 elections, the radical Sandinist wing decried the failure of the alliance and openly called for a "mass struggle" (we already know what that means) for the purpose of destabilizing the government before the 1996 elections.

This stance, summarized and published in the "Declaration by the 29" contains three grave elements that are worthy of comment:

1. It tries to hide the Sandinists' responsibility for the state of poverty into which they drove the country. While admittedly the radicals were not in power, things would have truly been worse if they were, and they would never have permitted democratic elections—let alone concede defeat—and the democratic transition.

2. The statement undermines democratic transition and urges a rebellion of unpredictable consequences. Making matters worse, they do not present an alternative, but merely increase the level of destabilizing actions that they have been conducting against the government since 1990. Can Nicaragua withstand more of the same during the almost three years that still remain before a new democratically elected government takes office?

3. It contains a purely electoral interest with the objective of taking control of the party. In other words, the internecine struggle between traditionally antagonistic factions of the FSLN would not matter or would not have greater consequences, were not the purpose to destroy the country and, in turn, make it possible—through chaos—for them to take power before 1996. This is an irresponsible and unpatriotic stance.

It is obvious that if the radical wing prevails in this struggle, the possibilities of a viable and united FSLN in 1996 would be minimal. Also, if the FSLN radicals had dominated in 1978 and 1979 they never would have reached power.

It was precisely the alliance with the bourgeoisie, something that disgusted the radicals, as well as the alliance with Venezuela and Costa Rica, but not with Cuba, that made the Sandinist revolution viable and led it to power. It was precisely the alliance of an FSLN sector with the government that has allowed that party to maintain a major share of power despite dramatic defeat at the polls in the 1990 elections.

Panama

Endara Says Ibero-American Summit 'Very Productive'

PA1907174193 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 19 Jul 93 p 2

[Text] President Guillermo Endara Galimany termed the Ibero-American Presidential Summit in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil "very productive."

Following his arrival at Tocumen International Airport at 1300 on 18 July, the chief of the executive branch stressed the presidents' pledge to "solve social and economic problems in our countries."

That is the essence of the pledge made by presidents who "have asserted that poverty is the root of our problems." By solving the poverty problem we will also be solving essential political problems, he said.

Endara emphasized: "We will have to work hard to eradicate poverty as long as it exists."

The chief of the executive branch said the summits have allowed the presidents to learn more about the problems affecting their countries and to know what is being done to solve them.

President Endara said specific actions have been taken in various sectors, including the education sector, which will benefit from Mexican and Spanish donations of 800 scholarships for advanced studies.

Moreover, Spain has put into orbit the "Hispasat" satellite, the primary function of which is to broadcast education and cultural programs. The Common Market of Knowledge and a series of other programs are also being developed to benefit the Ibero-American community.

In response to criticism that the Salvador de Bahia Declaration signed by the presidents is ambiguous, President Endara said: One cannot expect "politicians to talk as chemists or engineers." Politicians must talk like politicians, and the phrases we use show our interest in seeking solutions to social and economic problems and in holding a dialogue to find lasting peace.

President Guillermo Endara said his counterparts warmly welcomed the proposal for our country to host the summit in 2000. "It was very much applauded," said Foreign Minister Julio Linares, who accompanied the president to the Salvador de Bahia Summit.

The president talked about the discussion about the frequency of future summits and said it was agreed they would be held every two years. Argentina will host a summit in 1996; Portugal in 1998; and Panama in 2000.

The president said: That will be an important occasion for us because the last U.S. soldiers will leave that year and control of the canal will revert to the Panamanians.

The Panamanian delegation was also made up of Foreign Minister Julio Linares, First Lady Ana Mae Diaz de Endara, Legislative Assembly President Lucas Zarak, and Presidency Press Secretary Rene Hernandez.

The presidential couple was met at the airport by Presidency Minister Julio Harris, Education Minister Marco Alarcon, Presidency Vice Minister Ivonne Young, Agricultural Development Bank Manager Jaime Adames, Port Authority Director Jerry Salazar, Institutional Protection Service Director Carlos Bares W., relatives, and friends.

Argentina

Menem on Castro Meeting, Constitutional Reform, Summit

PY1907231693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1509 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jul (NA)—President Carlos Menem today stressed that he does not harbor "the slightest doubt" that the ruling party has the two-thirds required in the Senate to have a bill approved on the necessity of reforming the Constitution.

Nevertheless, Menem implicitly admitted that he has reservations about the fate the bill might have in the lower house, pointing out that "it remains to be seen how this issue is handled" in the lower house.

In remarks to Radio America, the chief of state stressed that constitutional reform is an issue that "already has been definitely acknowledged by our community, according to fairly favorable polls."

Regarding the Ibero-American Summit just held in Brazil, Menem believes that "of the three summits held, this was the best, basically because of the experience learned" from the two previous summits.

He added: "Very important issues were discussed, several proposals were made, and some solutions already were found, especially in the educational field, if we take into account the issues debated in the previous summits."

Menem said: "We concentrated all our efforts on development and growth with social justice because there are real calamities currently affecting humanity, especially in some regions with unemployment and hunger that logically results in malnutrition and infant mortality."

Regarding his thwarted meeting with Fidel Castro, Menem said that "it should be made quite clear that the request for rapprochement did not come from Argentina, but was made by Cuban officials."

Menem said: "This issue was discussed at the lower levels of the two countries' delegations, but when the time came for decisions there was some kind of demand by Cuba in the sense that Argentina change its position regarding its criticisms and attitude of confrontation with the Cuban regime." Menem added that this was "an unacceptable proposal or position."

Menem pointed out: "I am the one who always is advocating the need for the democratization of Cuba in all international meetings." He added: "It seems that the Cuban attitude is definitive and there are no possibilities for respect for human rights."

He said: "It is not justified to have in Latin America, where full democracy prevails, a regime that already has 35 years in power, that subdues the Cuban people and gives them no opportunity to express themselves with full freedom."

Regarding the candidacy of Dante Caputo to head the OAS, Menem said: "It is recognition by the Argentine Government of his success in the mediation process entrusted to him by the United Nations."

Menem denied, however, that the candidacy was an effort for rapprochement with the Radical Civic Union to get his support for the constitutional reform project.

Regarding another subject, Menem made it clear that the latest measures implemented to protect the local production of the paper and textile industries are not a change in Economy Ministry policy because "what is it being done is to manage the variables in the economic field for the consolidation of this model."

He pointed out: "Sometimes it is necessary to implement some kind of measures based on tariffs to prevent the local market from suffering, but these measures are implemented the same way as in the other countries of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the world."

Menem made a point of saying that "we do not want to reach situations like those in other countries, especially the Central American countries, with an unemployment rate of about 20 percent" when "we reduced it from 14 percent in 1989 to 6 percent."

Menem also rejected that the upcoming legislative elections might obstruct the economy's progress by saying that "before 3 October things will improve" and after that "things will be much better."

Menem Again Criticizes Castro

PY2007020093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1834 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jul (NA)—President Carlos Menem today ironically criticized Fidel Castro, saying that "he has become one of the great privatizers of the world" because "he privatized the state for himself." He considered it a "contradiction" that the Cuban leader "attended the Latin American Parliament, where laws, democracy, and liberty are discussed, to receive a medal."

Recalling the recent Ibero-American Summit, Menem said: "I feel disgusted when I have to participate in these types of meetings with people who do not respect the dignity of their people, in a country where human rights are not respected, and where there is no freedom of religion."

Menem made these remarks in dedicating the Casa Rosada FM 98.3 Radio station, which will go on the air from the second floor of the Presidential Palace.

The Argentine president, with presidential adviser Andres Barril Estevez and radio directors Julio Marbiz

and Antonio Carrizo by his side, spoke for more than an hour from the new studios and in relay with Radio Nacional, during which he held a telephone conversation with the governors of Tucuman, Ramon Ortega, and Santa Fe, Carlos Alberto Reutemann.

In making a number of remarks on freedom of the press, Menem spoke with the radio directors on the national and international situation.

When asked about the latest summit of Ibero-American chiefs of state and government, Menem almost immediately made charges against Fidel Castro.

In demanding liberty and democracy for "such a beautiful island as Cuba," Menem said Fidel Castro "has become one of the great privatizers" because "he privatized the state."

"I cannot tolerate, and besides, I feel disgusted when I have to participate in these types of meetings with people who do not respect the dignity of their people, in a country where there is no respect for human rights, and where there is no freedom of religion," Menem said.

He added: "Fidel has become one of the great privatizers of the world. He privatized the state for himself, and this obviously cannot go on."

He added: "It is a contradiction that Castro attended the Latin American Parliament, where laws, democracy, and freedom are discussed, to receive a medal because these are difficult things to understand."

The Argentine president said the Cuban people want respect for the dignity of those who make up the island's community, and then he referred to a Sao Paulo newspaper editorial that says Menem is one of the few presidents who continuously demands democracy in Cuba.

"They know very well what the Argentine position has been, not only now, but in Guadalajara and in Madrid, where we conveyed the same demand to Cuban authorities," Menem said.

He said that at the summit in Bahia his stance was a little "firmer" against Castro's dictatorship, and, in that sense, he said that today when he received the credentials of new U.S. Ambassador James Cheek, the latter also referred to the repercussions of the Argentine position at the summit in Brazil, and conveyed "gratitude for such a firm position."

According to Menem, the same Sao Paulo newspaper reported that many presidents were "very tough" with President Alberto Fujimori of Peru, "but President Fujimori has restored democracy in Peru."

"He closed Congress, but called for elections and today it is functioning within the framework of the Peruvian Constitution. He was criticized, but in Cuba, where there is no congress, where there is a single ruler, a dictatorship, no one dares to raise a voice publicly," Menem added. The Argentine president said we have been waiting for Cuba's democratization "for 35 years."

"For much less, [former Chilean President Agusto] Pinochet was accused of everything, and Pinochet handed over a country in democracy. I wish we had received Argentina with the stability [Chilean President] Aylwin received Chile in," he said.

"Pinochet was in power 17 years; Fidel Castro has been there for 35 years. For God's sake, why don't we dare say things directly and as it should be, we who have been victims of the loss of freedom? General Peron, who was one of the greatest democrats who ever lived on earth, was called dictator in Argentina by those who now would not dare call Castro a dictator. What world are we living in?" he asked.

Then Menem told an anecdote about "a group of Castro's followers. I thought they were funny because (there were) some 50 or 60 individuals carrying communist flags, and when I entered the Parliament they called me Nazi.

"The trouble now is that we who fight for democracy and who returned democracy to Argentina, and fight for democracy in other parts of the world, are called Nazis by the Cuban followers of Castro," he said.

"The world is upside down," he concluded.

German Official Signs Debt Rescheduling Agreement

LD2007074593 Hamburg DPA in German 0351 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires (DPA)—Juergen Echternach, parliamentary state secretary at the Bonn Finance Ministry, yesterday signed the fifth bilateral debt rescheduling agreement—for 1.2 million German marks—with Argentina. Following the signing in Buenos Aires of the agreement, the Christian Democratic Union politician said that the "debt rescheduling shows that we have confidence in Argentina." He described the level of German-Argentine relations as impressive.

Later today, Echternach will visit the building site of the Artucha II nuclear power station near the Argentine capital, a project in which the Siemens subsidiary Kraftwerk-Union (KWU) has a substantial share.

After his visit to Argentina the parliamentary state secretary flies to Brazil for economic talks.

Bolivia

Agreement With Chile Acknowledges 'Pending Issues'

PY1907232293 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Bolivian and Chilean Foreign Ministries have signed a momentous agreement. This is the first time

since the signature of the 1904 Treaty that Chile acknowledges that there is a pending problem between the two countries. Reading between the lines, this is at least what can be inferred from the joint communique released concurrently by the Bolivian Foreign Ministry and La Moneda Palace in Chile today at 1100 local time [1500 GMT]. The agreement was signed by Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean and his Chilean counterpart, Enrique Silva Cimma, during the Third Ibero-American Summit. MacLean said:

[Begin recording] We speak about pending issues in this communique. This is the very first time that Chile acknowledges that there still are pending matters between the two countries that must be dealt with. It also implicitly acknowledges that the way in which we are dealing with our relations is the manner in which we will be able to deal with all the issues on the bilateral agenda. [end recording]

The explicit thing is that the sea is not the most important issue, the important thing in this case is the signing of an economic complementation agreement, a cooperation agreement on the struggle against drugs, and the solution of all the problems pending on matters of border demarcation, in addition to the signing of an agreement on international air transportation, technical work for the adaptation of the Cicasica-Arica oil pipeline, the elimination of tourist visas for nationals from the two countries, and other actions being promoted by the two countries for the adoption of measures of common interest.

Brazil

New U.S. Troop Exercise in Guyana Noted

PY1907215193 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Jul 93 Section 1 p 7

[Article by Sonia Mossri from the Brasilia Bureau]

[Text] The U.S. Armed Forces are going to carry out more maneuvers on 19 July in Guyana in the area where this country borders Brazil. This is the second exercise in two months in Guyana to be carried out by U.S. troops, totaling some 200 men.

The Cconsex (Army Social Communications Center) told FOLHA DE SAO PAULO on 16 July that the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia informed Army Minister Zenildo de Lucena "10 days ago" that the maneuvers would take place. The Brazilian Armed Forces officially consider the maneuvers to be "normal." Some High Command members have expressed their concern.

During the [Jose] Sarney government, the then-Army minister, Leonidas Pires Goncalves, received several informal requests from the United States regarding the carrying out of maneuvers in Amazonia. All the proposals were refused. The Armed Forces and the Foreign Ministry insist that these maneuvers have negative repercussions on other Latin American countries.

Army To Control Borders During Police Strike

PY1907183193 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The Army will participate in the war against contraband during the Federal Police strike because practically all supervision of the borders has been suspended. This decision was made this morning during a meeting between the Federal Police director and the Army minister. Maryluce Villela reports live from Brasilia.

[Begin recording] Army General Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena has already issued the order to Army commanders in the Amazon region and the west and south of the country. Approximately 5,000 soldiers will participate, when necessary, particularly to repress arms contraband in borders. This morning Federal Police Director Colonel Wilson Romao went to the Army General Headquarters to ask the military to participate in the operation.

Col. Romao later went to the Federal Police Superintendency to talk with strikers at their strike command post. He did not bring any counterproposals to their demands and the strike will therefore continue. Col. Romao only came here to learn of the situation and to inform the strikers that the government will begin taking steps as of today. [end recording]

Alagoas Police Arrest Death Squadron Members

PY1907141793 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Alagoas Public Security Secretariat has identified a gang of gunmen, comprising 16 military police agents who have been accused of assassinating 69 individuals. The police said the gang was contracted by Alagoas, Bahia, Sergipe, and Pernambuco politicians and entrepreneurs.

They charged between 2 million and 8 million cruzeiros for their services.

Chile

Aylwin on Poverty, Democratic Stability, Meetings at Summit

PY1907162893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin has said that the need to tackle poverty as a basic priority for the stability of democracy was one of the main points achieved during the Third Summit of Ibero-American Presidents and Heads of Government. Returning to Chile, he summarized the summit held in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.

[Begin recording, in progress] ....strengthening the democratic system as an essential foundation for peace, the rule of liberty, and integrated coexistence among our nations, including the need to tackle poverty as a basic priority. [end recording]

President Aylwin added that it is understood that the stability of democracy and the maintenance of peace in the world, and in nations, is linked to the peoples' need to fulfill their basic needs.

President Aylwin indicated that the need to combine economic growth with social justice to defeat poverty was amply shared by all the presidents and heads of government attending the summit.

[Begin recording, in progress] ....these ideas, which we have repeatedly and permanently advocated and which inspire my administration, were virtually unanimously shared at the Salvador Summit. For us, this is very encouraging. [end recording]

The president emphasized that the bilateral meetings attended by virtually all participants of the Ibero-American summit were very important. Among them were the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Honduras, Ecuador, Cuba, Costa Rica, and Colombia. He also met with Brazilian President Itamar Franco, the Brazilian economy and foreign relations ministers, the presidents of Argentina and Uruguay, King Juan Carlos of Spain, the president of Portugal, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, and Paraguayan President-elect Juan Carlos Wasmosy.

President Aylwin said these meetings, in addition to the one he held with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, were of extraordinary importance for relations among the countries and for seeking common policy guidelines aimed at Latin American integration.

Carabineros Chief Refuses To Comment on FBI Presence

PY2007032093 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Carabineros General Director Rodolfo Stange refused today to comment on the installation of an FBI office in Chile. Stange said the current communications system is enough to coordinate international work.

[Begin recording] [Stange] The world is very much united because of the current communications system. Just as you get information from channels or media from the entire world, the police also have to exchange information all over to report on situations that can help another country. We are all committed in that exchange of information, all police are.

[Unidentified reporter] Does that mean that perhaps it will not be necessary to have the FBI in Chile?

[Stange] I am not stating an opinion because I do not have any major information on it. [end recording]

Minister Discards Resumption of Relations With Bolivia

PY2007025893 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] The governments of Chile and Bolivia today announced their desire to overcome, through the understanding of mutual benefits, the differences still pending on determined specific issues between the two countries.

This is contained in a joint communique released simultaneously in Santiago and La Paz by Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and his Bolivian counterpart, Ronald MacLean. The document is the product of the overall review of relations made by the two foreign ministers during the Ibero-American Summit of chiefs of state and government held in Brazil last week.

The document had, however, a different interpretation for the two foreign ministers. For Bolivia, the sea issue was not specifically mentioned because modern diplomatic language was used to prevent frictions, but it is believed that Chile acknowledges for the very first time that differences on specific issues prevail, said Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean. For Chile, through its foreign minister to whom we talked, the issue was seen in the following manner:

[Begin recording] [Silva Cimma] The importance I give to the document is that it is a good effort to make a complete summary of how relations between Bolivia and Chile have progressed in an environment of absolute harmony during three and one-half years, and how in the last eight months remaining the two countries hope to continue making progress in the field of bilateral relations, to continue to have more harmonious points of view in the development of their mutual relations.

[Unidentified reporter] Could the resumption of diplomatic relations be achieved; is that the intention of this government?

[Silva Cimma] I believe there is little chance because the Bolivian Government practically ends in 20 more days. This is why it is improbable that a resumption may be reached. And naturally, we are not aware of the new Bolivian Government's position in this regard. Obviously, the worst thing to do would be to take hasty measures that may be condemned to change. And this is something we would really deplore. [end recording]

The governments of Chile and Bolivia have had their relations broken since 17 March 1978 at Bolivia's initiative. The current Chilean will is to make the necessary rapprochement to improve relations, but looking at it realistically the results will only be seen in the next governments of the two countries.

Nicolas Escobar, Family Leave Chile

PY2007011093 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Nicolas Escobar Urquijo and his family left Chile for an Asian country today. He is the nephew of Pablo Escobar Gaviria. We have a report by Patricio Barraguez from our mobile unit:

[Begin recording] The stay of the Escobar Urquijo family in Chile came to an end after 47 days. They are relatives of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, who is called the drug czar. The Colombians entered Chile on 2 June and their presence was not known until 24 June. [passage omitted] It was expected that the Escobar family would leave at 1400 on Aerolineas Argentinas Flight 207 to Ezeiza Airport in Argentina, and then for Madrid, Spain. But after 1400 there was no confirmation of that flight. Finally it was learned that the Escobar family would be received in Asia, possibly Singapore or Tokyo, Japan. Nicolas Escobar said Tokyo may be his final destination, but Madrid also cannot be discarded.

[Escobar] [words indistinct] toward Asia. We will see what happens because there still is nothing concrete.

[Barraguez] It was said you may be traveling to Tokyo or Singapore. Is there any truth to that?

[Escobar] We will have to wait and see. It probably will be Tokyo.

[Barraguez] Possibly Tokyo, does that mean you will stay there permanently? Did you get some kind of visa?

[Escobar] Yes, we have a visa to stay for quite a while.

[Barraguez] Is this the result of the negotiations you held with the Colombian Embassy last week.

[Escobar] The Colombian Embassy knows nothing about this. The Colombian ambassador treated us very well, but he is not aware where I am traveling.

[Barraguez] This case came to an end at 1738 when Lan Chile Flight 170 left for stopovers in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Madrid, Spain, and Frankfurt, Germany. Escobar will have to get off in one of these points to continue to another destination, which is still uncertain. [end recording]

Ecuador

President Swears In New Finance Minister Robalino

PA2007014293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0105 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Quito, 19 Jul (EFE)—Cesar Robalino, former World Bank and IMF adviser, was sworn in as new finance minister of the administration of President Sixto Duran-Ballen on 19 July.

Robalino, who resigned last week as Ecuadoran consul general in Houston to accept the post, will head the team that will soon resume the renegotiation of Ecuador's foreign debt with creditor banks. The new minister held the same post during the administration of President Jaime Roldos (1979-81).

At the swearing-in ceremony, which occurred after a cabinet crisis, Robalino thanked the president for "the confidence you have shown in me during these difficult times for the country, which has several challenges," including the renegotiation of the more than $12-billion foreign debt, the privatization of state enterprises, and fiscal modernization.

On 21 July, Duran-Ballen will swear in new Government Minister Marcelo Santos, after having sworn in Jorge Garcia as new industry, commerce, and integration minister, and Montserrat Butina as social welfare minister.

Paraguay

Commentary Analyzes Ibero-American Summit Result

PY1907170793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 16 Jul 93 p 19

[Commentary by Celso Chavez: "Bahia Focuses on Social Development"]

[Text] With the East-West ideological and military conflict behind us, the world began to look at aspects of development, scientific research, and cultural takeoff. This is why the Third Ibero-American Summit, which began its deliberations in Bahia, Brazil today, will center its attention on this objectives.

The 21 heads of government and the Spanish King attending the summit are conscious that they—especially the Latin American presidents—represent politically unstable nations with serious economic difficulties and very poor standards of living, and that they must consolidate a community of nations that is already linked through deep ethnic and cultural roots.

The [First Ibero-American] summit in Guadalajara, Mexico, [in 1991] gave the initial push to this great community project. That momentum was strengthened in Madrid [the Second Ibero-American Summit] with some concrete proposals that must necessarily be consolidated in Bahia if we do not want this type of forum to become the mere centers of rhetoric and false leadership of which some regional heads of state dream.

But for this great issue to leap to the fore it is indispensable to leave aside sterile discussions—like the topic of Cuba and its leader Fidel Castro. The "Cubanization" of the two previous meetings distracted the attention of the heads of state too much.

The "Agenda for Development" that will be discussed by the presidents is perhaps the first effective step to

elaborate common programs in community member countries. The summit must also plan follow-up projects to avoid falling in the "voids" mentioned by Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera when arriving in Salvador.

As a member of this block of nations, and a country facing the same kind of problems, Paraguay must change its current attitude of irresolution when discussing international relations issues. We must make our problems the problems of the Ibero-American Community, or that grand scheme will keep us isolated.

Peru

De la Puente Denies Walking Out of Parlatino Meeting

PA2007045393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Oscar de la Puente Raygada, president of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, has denied an EFE report that he walked out of Latin American Parliament [Parlatino] headquarters in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in response to a scathing speech by Venezuelan lawmaker Humberto Celli. De la Puente noted he did not attend the meeting, but returned to Lima along with President Alberto Fujimori after attending the Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, Bahia State.

[Begin recording] [De la Puente] The report is completely false, simply because I was not in Sao Paulo. The Ibero-American Summit, attended by all the Ibero-American heads of state and government, concluded the night of 16 July. We flew the presidential airplane to Lima that night. We arrived early Saturday morning [17 July], and the ceremony to inaugurate the new Parlatino headquarters took place when we were all in Lima.

Why did we not attend? We officially informed the Brazilian Foreign Ministry 48 hours ahead of time that the Peruvian delegation would be formed by outstanding officials and representatives of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD]. The delegation was made up of CCD Vice President Carlos Torres and Congressmen Ricardo Marcenaro, Xavier Barron, and Ernesto Gamarra. This information about me walking out when I heard Parlatino President Celli and angrily rejecting a decoration is completely false.

Through the Foreign Ministry we have taken the step of denying this through a joint [as heard] statement, and we are denying it right now.

[Unidentified reporter] At any rate, Dr. Celli's speech is food for thought, considering that sort of situation, although to a lesser degree, also took place at the Ibero-American Summit.

[De la Puente] I think this is part of democracy. We are not going to attend only those international meetings where good things are said about Peru. [end recording]

Uruguay

Lacalle, Costa Rica's Calderon Sign Joint Declaration

PY2007023193 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and his Costa Rican counterpart, Rafael Angel Calderon, today agreed on stressing Central America's need to have greater presence and representation in all OAS organizations.

The Costa Rican president is on his second day of an official visit to our country, during which the two presidents assessed current bilateral, regional, and world relations. They had intensive activities today.

In a joint declaration, the two presidents expressed their hope for a quick, equitable, and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT, which will lead to a multilateral system of more open and just trade that will not be discriminatory.

Lacalle and Calderon promised to strengthen Latin American integration and, as part of it, to achieve greater rapprochement among countries of the Common Market of the South and the Central American Integration System, SICA.

After stressing the importance of the dedication of the Latin American Parliament last week in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as a forum for the consolidation of dialogue among countries of the continent, the presidents of Uruguay and Costa Rica stressed the need to make united efforts in the struggle against drug trafficking.

The two presidents stressed their will to increase commercial relations, and added that private initiative must play the fundamental role, taking into account the economic conditions offered by each country.

During the meetings held with [passage indistinct]. As part of the will to increase cultural relations, he announced the forthcoming signing in San Jose de Costa Rica of an agreement between the official radio broadcasting service of Uruguay and the University of Costa Rica.

Moreover, President Calderon invited the Uruguayan president to visit Costa Rica soon, which the Uruguayan president accepted. They agreed to set the date of the visit at the diplomatic level on a later date.

Venezuela

Supreme Court Official Injured in Letter Bomb Explosion

PA1907173393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1643 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] Caracas, 19 Jul (AFP)—A bomb exploded in the Supreme Court building at noon on 19 July, eyewitnesses stated. The bomb was reportedly inside an envelope that exploded when a Supreme Court official opened it. Although Supreme Court officials declined to give any information on the explosion, unofficial sources said the employee lost a hand. The official was taken to a nearby hospital in a television studio vehicle, reporters said.

Supreme Court Vice President Alirio Abreu Burelli received a letter bomb at his home in Caracas over the weekend, but the device failed to explode. Policemen removed the letter from Abreu Burelli's home and later detonated the explosive.

The Supreme Court is holding trial in the case of suspended President Carlos Andres Perez for embezzlement and is preparing a pretrial for former President Jaime Lusinchi, who is accused of corruption.

Interior Minister on Thwarted Attack

PA1907183093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1555 GMT 19 Jul 93

[Text] On leaving the Miraflores building a short while ago, Interior Minister Carlos Delgado Chapellin confirmed a report regarding a thwarted attack on Magistrate Alirio Abreu, vice president of the Supreme Court of Justice. Delgado Chapellin said Abreu received a letter containing plastic explosives, which was detected in time. The minister declined to speculate on the perpetrator.

[Begin Delgado Chapellin recording] We are trying to determine the letter's origin. We know, however, that the letter was mailed by a woman in Los Teques. [end recording]

Guyana

Government Announces Program To Woo Diaspora Home

FL1807223593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1838 GMT 17 Jul 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 17, CANA—The Guyana Government has announced a programme aimed at wooing skilled Guyanese back home to fill key public sector posts. National director of the public administration project, Rabindranauth ivanand, told reporters at a news briefing on Friday the international Development Association of the World Bank is funding the four-year wages supplement programme. This is the first time in the bank's history that it is disbursing such funds to prop up wages in a country, Guyanese officials say.

Sivanand said the bank was to pump U.S. $5 million in U.S. $1.25 million tranches for each of the four years. The Guyana Goverment is also to put up a similar amount annually beginning this month. The government, Sivanand said, is looking to utilise a similar figure for the remainder of this year since it is committed to implementing a July 1 wages increase offer.

The bank is putting up U.S. $12 million and the Guyana Government U.S. $10 million in several projects aimed at boosting public sector salaries and recruiting Guyanese living overseas to fill about 60 key vacancies in the civil service, he reported.

"In as much as the programme will be targeted to recruit Guyanese nationals in the first place from wherever they are, the programme does not preclude the recruitment of non-nationals if we cannot find any national," Sivanand told reporters.

He said: "People who are identified and are offered jobs will be repatriated home by way of (airline) tickets for themselves and family, the provision of baggage allowance to the tune of about 5,000 kilograms." When they arrive, he said, they are expected to occupy the jobs for which they have been recruited at the same level of remuneration that is payable locally for the same job. There will be no special pay for such jobs, he stressed. But he told reporters the returning Guyanese will be given special incentives.

He said: "The only incentive they are being offered is a grant on arrival of U.S. $10,000 initially and on completion of at least three years' resident service, another grant of U.S. $15 000, both nontaxable.

"The general intention is that these Guyanese or other people who have been recruited and brought to Guyana should be encouraged to remain and live here." He said there would be no contracts saying they should return on completing the mandatory three years. The senior civil servant said the government hopes public sector wages would have improved significantly at the end of three years, giving the returning Guyanese even more incentives to remain.

Acknowledging that there has been a "lot of eyebrows raised" about the grants, Sivanand said it works out only to about U.S. $700 a month over a 36-month period. Said Sivanand: "The general notion is that U.S. $700 a month in addition to the local salaries being paid and allowances is not really any particularly fancy incentive to give to anybody of the particular calibre we are looking forward to." He said World Bank officials are "convinced" that the sum is "reasonable" in Guyana's circumstances. "They feel that there is nothing overgenerous in the grant that is proposed under the programme," he remarked.

The programme, he told reporters, should cost nearly U.S. $2 million and is to begin in September.